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Near East & South Asia

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Iraqi-Kuwaiti Meeting Slated for Jeddah 28 Jul

NC2507175390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that a bilateral Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting will be conducted in Jeddah on Saturday or Sunday to settle the dispute between the two countries.

His excellency announced this in remarks before the beginning of the Police Academy's graduation ceremony this evening. He noted that the meeting will be limited only to these two countries.

Meeting Agenda Announced

LD2607111290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1016 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 26 (KUNA)—Talks between Kuwait and Iraq to settle the dispute over oil and border issues will begin on Saturday in the Saudi port city of Jeddah, Egyptian diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said that the two countries' experts would discuss border demarcation, Kuwaiti loans to Iraq and coordination of oil policies to boost international prices.

They added that oil, political and financial experts from the two sides will take part in the meeting to define points of difference prior to settling them.

The sources indicated that the two-day meeting would not issue recommendations or resolutions, adding each delegation would submit detailed reports on their talks to their respective foreign ministers on differences and means of settling them.

Further Details on Talks

JN2607201290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jul 90

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Riyadh; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Saudi city of Jeddah will Saturday [28 July] host a meeting between political, oil, and financial experts from Iraq and Kuwait to discuss resolving the dispute triggered by Iraq on border, oil, and debt issues and to probe each party's viewpoint about a solution. A meeting is expected to be held on Sunday or Monday between the second in command of both countries. However, this is still contingent upon the results of contacts Cairo and Riyadh are currently making with Iraq and Kuwait.

Informed sources told our radio that on Saturday the two countries' experts will discuss the demarcation of borders, the interlocked oil positions between the two countries, and Kuwaiti loans to Iraq, in addition to coordinating oil policy in the world market with the aim of boosting oil prices. According to the sources, no decisions will be made during Saturday's meeting; two separate reports will be submitted to the two countries' foreign ministers on the points of agreement and disagreement and proposed solutions pending a new round of talks which, as I have just said, are expected to be held in Jeddah on Sunday or Monday.

In the meantime, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser for political affairs, is continuing his talks in Kuwait on the Baghdad-Kuwaiti dispute. His visit is expected to continue until tomorrow, Friday. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi returned to Tunis after visiting Kuwait. Riyadh has, since last night, been making contacts in a bid to consolidate the calm atmosphere that began to settle today over Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations, especially after the halting of the Iraqi media campaigns and the withdrawal of military concentrations from the two countries' borders.

Palestinian Affairs

Sabri Al-Banna Reported Alive in Libya

PM2707085490 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 26 Jul 90 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Abu Nidal in Libya, Could Soon Resume Operations From Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Abu Nidal is alive and in Libya, where he is not under arrest but prevented from pursuing his activities: This was said to ANSA [Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata] by a senior PLO official in connection with reports in the international press concerning the defeat of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council and the imprisonment and possible killing of its leader, Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, responsible for the attacks on Fiumicino and Vienna airports in December 1985, among other things. The source also confirmed that PLO forces have taken complete control of all the areas of southern Lebanon where the Palestinian camps are situated, thus ending the Fatah-Revolutionary Council's presence in the zone.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna and who was born in Jaffa in 1937, joined the majority PLO faction, Fatah, in the sixties and was the organization's representative in Baghdad. In 1974, considering Fatah too moderate, he left it and formed Fatah-Revolutionary Council, for which he was sentenced to death. The Baghdad regime supplied him with funds and training for his men. Abu Nidal's lengthy career as an international terrorist began right away with the killing of Syrian 'Abd-al-Kalim Haddam, hostile to Iraq. Fatah-Revolutionary Council assassinated Na'im Khadr (June 1982) and 'Isam Sartawi (April 1983); the chairman of the Egyptian Journalists' Association, a number of Jordanian diplomats, and the Arab Emirates' ambassador in Paris were also murdered. In 1983, Iraq, under pressure from Saudi Arabia, decided to expel Abu Nidal, who turned to his traditional enemy, Syria, and, with

Syrian help, carried out attacks on Jordan, Britain, and above all Israel. It seems that in the future Abu Nidal could again rely on a base in and support from Iraq.

FRC Refuses Comment on Belgian Proposal

JN2707102090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] under Abu Nidal has refused comment on the Belgian Government's announcement that it is ready to release one of the movement's members in exchange for the release of the four hostages the FRC kidnapped on the Silco ship.

Paper Interviews PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

PM2307095490 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Jul 90 pp 24-25

[Interview with head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, also identified by his nom de guerre, Abu-al-Lutf, by Mazin al-Saghir in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: With Shamir's Likud government in power and with hawks such as Sharon and Levi in control in Israel, how do you view the future of the region and the future of peace there?

Qaddumi: The composition of the latest Israeli cabinet reflects an Israeli determination to continue to pursue an extremist right wing policy by holding on to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, refusing to withdraw from them, carrying out an aggressive expansionist policy, and continuing to bring in tens of thousands of emigres for absorption into the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Golan. That could lead to more tension and even a new war in the region. Israeli intransigence leaves the world with only one option, namely, to accept Israel's expansionist designs; but we Palestinians and Arabs cannot possibly accept it and will defend our rights with every means at our disposal.

AL-HAWADITH: The question now is, what can you rely on in the next phase, and how will what you have said affect the PLO's peaceful policy?

Qaddumi: The Palestinian revolution will adhere to its struggle line and will not change it. We have taken a Palestinian peace initiative which has been supported by the vast majority of the world states with the exception of the United States and Israel. We will pursue our policy and daily struggle and we cannot change it for any transient reasons. In the event of a war with Israel the Palestinian people and the Arab nation must stand united in the face of any possible Israeli aggression. There can be no doubt that this time a war would be a long one, not a short blitzkrieg such as the Israelis envisage, and it would have grave consequences for the entire region. If there are any Israeli aggressive intentions, which is quite possible, then the Arabs must build up their intrinsic capabilities and pool their resources to deter an Israeli aggression.

We are for peace without preconditions, for the kind of peace approved by the United Nations and outlined in the Palestinian peace initiative. Anything else would mean capitulation. We will resist the enemies of the cause with all our power—enemies who can only be persuaded by war, when it comes to Palestinian rights and the recognition of these rights. Unfortunately we see the United States stalling and procrastinating. It is not putting pressure on Israel to keep it in check and to make it accept the international initiative and agree to an international conference so that the Palestinian people's national rights to self-determination and sovereignty over their independent Palestinian territory can be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view the U.S. suspension of its dialogue with you, and how will it affect the peace process?

Qaddumi: The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was sporadic and achieved no results. The United States was going around in circles and did not boost the dialogue to the point of discussing such central and important issues as a political settlement. The Americans avoided discussing the question of an international conference. Despite that, we were anxious to maintain the dialogue. However, because of the severe preconditions that the United States is imposing on us, we believe that it was the United States that abandoned the dialogue. No preconditions must be imposed on the Palestinian people, particularly in connection with the dialogue with the United States.

We know that the United States is a superpower and that, together with other superpowers, it is responsible to a large extent for the protection of world peace and security. It is supposed to honor its international duties- -not the opposite, as when it occupied Panama, threatened Libya and Iraq, and suspended its dialogue with the main party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This means that there is something wrong with U.S. policy. Small nations and states have every right to seek and maintain their independence and sovereignty. It is only natural. It is the duty of the United States as a superpower to help to preserve international peace and security and to stop the continuing Israeli troublemaking, but unfortunately it does not. The U.S. Administration is incapable of taking any major steps in its relations with the PLO because of Zionist pressure on the administration and its legislative bodies. The United States must recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and it must recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. It is now the only state that refuses to acknowledge these facts. We therefore realize that the peace process—particularly after the suspension of the dialogue—is at a standstill, and even retreating and giving way to violence and war.

As I have said, the United States and Israel are to blame for this. The PLO statement After the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] operation was clear in declaring

that we had nothing to do with the operation. This was conveyed in official PLO statements and was affirmed at a press conference by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

AL-HAWADITH: Before the dialogue was suspended observers noticed some difference between the official PLO position, which advocated a continuation of the dialogue, and the position of the intifadah leadership, which urged the ending of the dialogue. How do you explain that?

Qaddumi: Of course the PLO knows that the Palestinian cause needs international support. Since democracy is a basic principle of ours, differences of opinion can occur on this and other matters, but in the end the decision is up to the PLO leadership. There is a dialogue between us and the intifadah leadership inside [the occupied territory] on such matters. Our opinion was that there was no need to be hasty and that it was the United States—not we—that had a dilemma.

AL-HAWADITH: What has become of the Arab group's efforts after the U.S. veto in connection with the issue of a factfinding mission to the occupied territory?

Qaddumi: When the United States vetoes a draft resolution at the Security Council, then the thing to do is to go to the General Assembly, where a recommendation or resolution should be binding. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Considering the charged atmosphere in the region, how urgent is the question of forming an eastern front now?

Qaddumi: Necessity dictates its own terms. When an eastern front becomes necessary, then the Arabs must form such a front to defend themselves. This is axiomatic.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view your relations with Syria, which would be one of the main members of such a front, in view of the fact that it did not attend the Baghdad summit conference?

Qaddumi: We would have liked Syria to attend the Arab summit conference, because Syria is an important element in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Efforts are currently underway to clear the Arab atmosphere and to strengthen joint Arab action and solidarity and to ensure a very strong unified Arab stand in meeting the challenges facing us as an Arab nation. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Israeli Government has threatened the intifadah with more violence and repression. Do you feel reassured about the intifadah's position?

Qaddumi: Israel has tried to, and has said that it would, crush the intifadah, which is now 30 months old, and I believe that this is the practical answer to all the Israeli nonsense.

AL-HAWADITH: Could one say that the escalation of the intifadah coincides with the revival of the armed struggle outside [the occupied territory]?

Qaddumi: It is inaccurate to speak of a revival of the armed struggle because the PLO never abandoned armed struggle in the past. When we asked the intifadah and our brothers inside not to use arms it was for other reasons. As regards armed struggle, arms should remain in the hands of the fighters until liberation.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the emigration of Soviet Jews? Has any progress been made in the attempts to stop or reduce the emigration?

Qaddumi: We have contacted all the parties concerned with Jewish emigration, especially the Soviet Union. President Gorbachev sent a message to the Arab summit conference on the matter, explaining the Soviet position. We are still making efforts to check the emigration. Our aim is to stop it completely, because it is actually not emigration but a transfer. It is a new invasion, a continuation of the Zionist invasion which began at the end of the last century. It is not a matter of human rights. Human rights apply in this context to the Palestinians, not to the Jews, because it is a violation of Palestinian rights. Instead of bringing Jews from the Soviet Union, instead of bringing foreigners to Palestine, there are a million Palestinian refugees who could go back to their land, their homeland, and their homes before foreigners from other countries occupy them.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people claim that the Soviet Union is giving the Arabs words and moral jargon to calm them down, while at the same time quickly dropping its conditions for the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Does this not require a firm stand against the Soviet Union?

Qaddumi: Why should we have tense relations with the Soviet Union? Would we gain any result from tension with the Soviet Union? I do not believe so. The Soviet Union is a friend, but that does not mean that we will accept the continuation of that emigration. As long as they are our friends we will continue the dialogue. I believe we have achieved some success. We will continue the dialogue, particularly since the Soviet Union is now convinced that Israel will never absolutely commit itself to refraining from building settlements and settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territory. We are maintaining our dialogue with the Soviet Union because we want to keep our friends and because we would like the Soviet Union to take practical measures to prevent a Middle East catastrophe which could pose a threat to world peace and security.

Hamas Criticizes U.S., USSR Support for Israel

JN2507195190 Beirut AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 7

[Statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in "Palestine" on 10 July]

[Excerpt] O our heroic Palestinian people: While our people's masses have continued to call for severing all ties with the United States and when some leaderships are calling for a reassessment and a reconsideration of policies, we find that the advocates of dialogue with the United States are preoccupied with trying to find a way out that satisfies the United States to ensure a resumption of the dialogue in defiance of the masses' demands. These advocates neither want a reassessment nor a reconsideration of previous policies and stands. This is happening at a time when the Jewish entity's government, which has been branded as a war cabinet, has persisted in its repression, threatening to use helicopters, erect permanent checkpoints at road intersections, form settler guard units, increase the number of military tribunal judges, expand detention centers, and impose house arrests on intifadah leaders in areas other than their places of residence in order to crush the intifadah, as they put it.

What has the United States, on which we have been placing our hopes, done about all this other than the statement made by its secretary of state to the effect that he needs a long time to study this government's reply to his points, because the reply was lengthy and tackled several issues? What has the USSR done about the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? Nothing other than a message sent by Gorbachev to the Egyptian president stating that there is no conclusive evidence about this settlement effort and that the Soviet Government will hold talks with the Jewish government to advance the peace process.

The U.S. and USSR positions show beyond any shadow of doubt total support for the position of the Jewish government, which deceitfully trying to show itself as a moderate government that is eager to safeguard our people's interests. It has demonstrated this through its invitation to the Syrian president to visit Jerusalem, through the reopening of some of the closed universities, and through resolving some of the problems regarding family reunions.

O, our Muslim Palestinian people: All of these attempts have been exposed. Our people's masses, who are well aware of the realities, know that the scheme depends on their harboring delusions about peace. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, through its principled positions reflecting the masses' awareness and through its determination to vindicate right, warns against the success of the tricks that seek to burnish our enemies' faces and to end the intifadah. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, would like to note that those making these attempts will not achieve their objectives as long as our hands continue to throw stones, as long as our hearts are filled with love for every grain of our national soil, and as long as our minds are aware of the justness of our cause, particularly as our religion urges us to make heavy sacrifices to regain our legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Further Reportage on 87th OPEC Conference

Boussena Addresses Meeting

LD2807112890 Vienna OPECNA in English 1008 GMT 26 Jul 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Geneva, 26 July 90 (OPECNA)—OPEC conference alternate President Sadek Boussena warned here this morning that unless full adherence was paid to the organization's production agreement's 'we shall see ourselves paddling through bitter past experiences'.

In an opening address to the 87th meeting of the OPEC conference, he said the core of the problem lay not in the organization's lack of ability and will to manage crisis situation 'but in the lack of determination to keep a steady course of action in order to avoid them'.

He declared: 'Despite all the difficulties, OPEC has a good record in working out agreements which are practical and realistic enough to meet prevailing market conditions. The problem lies in our somewhat mixed record regarding their implementation.'

Boussena, Algeria's mines minister, professed that 'the real challenge at hand' as OPEC entered the new decade and celebrated its 30th birthday 'was in achieving and guaranteeing a stable oil market.'

'This can only be done if our organization conducts its day-to-day work smoothly, to the limit of its responsibility,' he stressed. The minister declared that after making an encouraging start to the decade, the Organization's fortunes had 'faded badly'.

He noted that in recent months oil prices had fallen to their lowest levels in 18 months 'with the risk of bringing once again' OPEC member countries' revenues and economies to the 'brink of collapse'. Boussena contended that OPEC production behaviour had not been the smallest contributor to this 'unwelcome development.'

He said: "Total OPEC output levels have been, by and large, continuously exceeding the (production) ceiling which was agreed at our November 1989 conference.' "As a result of this," he affirmed, "oil stocks had risen to their highest levels since the early 1980s, thereby risking a delay—even indeed a lessening—of the positive impact of our decisions'.

At last year's talks, the Organization's 13 oil and energy ministers agreed to a production ceiling of 22 million b/d [barrels per day] around a reference price of 18 dollars a barrel for the first six months of this year.

The minister said he did not need to remind member countries of the harsh social and economic implications of a price crash 'since many of the repercussions of past experiences remained today' and in some cases had even

intensified. He said: 'We are still confronted with difficult problems that we should do everything in our power to overcome.'

Boussena said it was no wonder that 'We tend to look at our behaviour' particularly since the agreement of December 1986 'with sorrow'.

He explained that OPEC's reference price of 18 dollars a barrel 'first agreed to by the conference that year' had not only been eroded in real terms, but had not even been achieved in nominal terms throughout most of the interim period.

'In 1986 dollars' the reference price of our oil today would be 22.70 dollars a barrel, he noted. Boussena said he felt there was still ground for hope. 'How solid a ground depends only on our own capacity to discipline ourselves and abide by the rules we freely 'as equal sovereign member states' commit ourselves to.

'This is the condition for our success on which the stability and economic well-being of our countries' but also of all producers 'so much depends,' he claimed. The minister pointed out that one had to accept that in such a diverse organization as OPEC 'we cannot expect our decisions to please all our members simultaneously' in their finest details'.

He went on: 'They often constitute a compromise whose shape and form are governed by our common desire to retain the integrity of the organization and 'at the same time' to safeguard 'to the maximum possible' the individual interests of our 13 member countries 'actively involved in a highly-competitive international arena.'

Boussena maintained that if OPEC was to succeed in its main goal of securing stable 'acceptable revenuse for member countries' as well as regular supplies of 'a vital strategic commodity' to the world economy, 'we should work out a common approach to the pricing and production policy that our organization ought to follow in the next coming years'.

He said that such policy guidelines would certainly strengthen the cohesion of the organization and help it keep the necessary consensus to overcome the challenges ahead.

Said Boussena: 'Let's hope that the experiences of the 1980s have enriched us and that what is now termed as the OPEC credibility gap as regards adherence to its own decisions' will be filled 'particularly since the prospects for OPEC oil demand in the 1990s tend to facilitate the thorny task of allocating incremental production among our member countries.'

He said it was about time that the idea of a set of agreed principles to govern the organization's future action be given more consideration. 'By so doing' it is my conviction that we will not only spare our organization, our member countries and certainly ourselves as heads of delegation 'the unnecessary strains that often stem from misunderstanding of each other's positions, background policies and alleged intentions' but we will be cementing our cohesion and increasing our effectiveness, 'thus charting a safer course for our organization' he said.

The minister affirmed that the organization still felt that the sacrifices made by OPEC member countries had not been met with reciprocal concrete action from the non-OPEC countries 'whom we consider equal partners in this task'.

He stressed: 'Let us hope that the decade ahead will witness the materialization of concrete co-operation' beneficial not only to OPEC and non-OPEC countries, but also to consumers, who 'to a large extent' have much to gain from a more stable and predictable market 'not to mention the international oil industry as a whole' whose stake in our success or failure is so great.'

Possible $21 Benchmark Studied

LD2607104890 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 26 IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are to hold their 87th ordinary session here Thursday after two days of bilateral and multilateral talks.

The ministers seem to have come to a general agreement on new OPEC production ceiling and benchmark prices. According to sources close to OPEC, the ministers are unanimous in setting the benchmark price at $20 a barrel and also in production ceiling of 22.491 million barrels a day. At the same time, the ministers in their talks are studying possibilities of setting prices at $21 or more a barrel as the "minimum benchmark price."

On Wednesday, Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh told reporters here at the end of the OPEC market monitoring committee session that the new production ceiling would be set at 22.491 million barrels per day and that no change in the production has been anticipated.

Oil sources here believe that the new production ceiling would remain valid for the rest of 1990.

According to reliable sources, the OPEC oil ministers in their preliminary talks, have agreed that in future sessions any increase in production ceiling will be linked to a hike in benchmark prices. The next OPEC ministerial session is scheduled to be held in December.

A member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) delegation to the session said that the oil ministers in their informal talks of the past two days have decided to monitor market situation by holding regular regional ministerial sessions.

Chairman Denies Agreement Reached

JN2607115390 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva—OPEC oil ministers began their 87th ordinary conference in Geneva this morning. The meeting was described as historic due to expectations that OPEC will reach a collective agreement over prices and production.

Sadeq Boussena, Algerian mines minister and chairman of the OPEC conference, stressed that the ministers will certainly reach agreement to raise the price over 18 dollars per barrel. In a conclusive statement to the Emirates News Agency, he said it is premature to talk about the new price. He denied that the ministers have already reached agreement setting the price at 20 dollars per barrel. Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah is heading the United Arab Emirates' delegation to the OPEC conference.

Ministers Elect Officials

LD2607131190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1223 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 26 (KUNA)—Sadek Boussena, the Algerian oil minister, was re-elected as the president of OPEC Thursday, according to Dr. Subroto, secretary general of the organisation.

Speaking to journalists after the first full meeting between the 13 OPEC oil ministers here, which lasted for nearly two hours, Subroto said the Indonesian oil minister, Ginanjar Kartasasmita was elected as the alternate OPEC president.

In another decision, Ramzi Salman of Iraq was appointed as the deputy secretary general of OPEC. Salman was head of 'SOMO'—the State Oil Marketing Organisation of Iraq.

Subroto described the ministerial meeting as having been conducted in a "business-like" manner, with the ministers having reviewed 14 items on the agenda. What remained to be considered was a report of the market monitoring committee on the problem of quotas and prices.

While bilateral discussions would continue today, a ministerial meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Subroto informed. It was aimed to conclude the Geneva talks in a "quick manner", he indicated.

Asked whether the ministers had agreed to a new reference price, Subroto said they were "rather close"—indicating the figure around 20 dollars a barrel.

To another question whether a target of 25 dollars was being considered, Subroto said discussions were continuing.

First Session Ends

LD2607130190 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 26, IRNA—The first meeting of the oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) concluded here today after hearing a 90-minute report by the monitoring committee.

During the session Ramzi Salman from Iraq was elected under-secretary general of the organisation. Iran did not participate in the voting. The next meeting is predicted to be held Friday morning, and until then the 13 oil ministers of the member states will continue their private talks.

OPEC Secretary General Subroto of Venezuela said at the end of today's meeting that private talks would be centered on issues including the base price and production ceiling. He said Morocco has invited OPEC ministers to hold their next session in Casablanca.

Gulf Oil Ministers Meet

LD2607163190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1454 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 26 (KUNA)—After the first meeting of the thirteen OPEC oil ministers here this morning, a group of five gulf states held a meeting. These included Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

Sources said that the meeting was basically to re-emphasize the accord arrived at by the ministers at Jeddah on July 10. The meeting has also been described as a move towards a consensus at the ministerial OPEC meeting tomorrow.

It is generally believed that the ministers would make a final announcement of their major decisions on Friday. The Venezuelan oil minister, Dr. Celestino Armas, is reported to have said that a decision is likely by tomorrow.

$25 Price 'Under Discussion'

JN2607183690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Geneva, 26 Jul (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said that all OPEC member states have emphasized that any agreement should be based on full and accurate compliance with their production quotas, on not violating these quotas, and on considering this compliance as having a political nature that will be fully reflected upon member states.

In a statement to INA in Geneva, the oil minister added that the OPEC member states have attached extreme importance to this issue, whether it is in the sideline contacts among the oil ministers or during the first closed session of the 87th ordinary ministerial conference.

Regarding the price of OPEC crude oil and Iraq's call for increasing the price to $25 per barrel, the oil minister said: Although the $20 per barrel price instead of $18 is accepted by the majority, what Iraq proposed regarding the $25 per barrel price as a first step is still under discussion and the door is not closed to it, as some believe. He said some member states expressed support for Iraq's call for increasing the price to this level and that discussion is centered around the timing and the practical method of achieving the proposed and targeted increase.

The oil minister added that there is unanimous agreement to increase the minimum level of OPEC's oil price, which is $18 per barrel, to $20 per barrel in light of the unanimity to fix the production ceiling of the organization at the level of 22.491 million barrels per day.

'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi said that he met today with the oil ministers of the Arab Gulf OPEC member states, which, in addition to Iraq, are: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. He said that during the meeting, the ministers discussed issues on the agenda of the conference, particularly regarding the production ceiling, the member states' quotas, and the OPEC oil price.

The minister attached special importance to the lengthy sideline meetings held Wednesday [25 Jul] evening, and which were attended by the oil ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Indonesia. He said these meetings lasted more than 14 hours. He said the oil ministers of the member states that held these meetings are now forming a mini committee to come to a comprehensive agreement during the session of the current ministerial conference. He added that members of this committee have also held lengthy meetings with the oil ministers of the other OPEC member states, and that the meetings produced good and positive results.

The oil minister said that, although an official statement was not issued on the results of the several intensified meetings, all member states agree that the production ceiling agreed upon at the Jeddah meeting among the oil ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, which is 22.491 million barrels per day, is acceptable to all sides.

'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi described the current meeting of the ministerial conference as one of the most important conferences to be held in recent years because of the clear indications and signs defined in the comprehensive historic speech on the 22d anniversary of the 17 July Revolution by President Saddam Husayn, whose aim was to increase oil prices. [passage omitted]

Libya Instructs Oil Minister

JN2607195790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 JUl (INA)—Libya has informed Iraq that it has instructed the Libyan oil minister to cooperate fully with the Iraqi oil minister at the current OPEC meetings in Geneva. This came when Major 'Abd-al-Sallam Jallud summoned the first secretary at the Iraqi Embassy in Tripoli the day before yesterday in the presence of the Libyan oil minister.

Maj. Jallud informed the first secretary at the Iraqi Embassy of the following:

1. The Libyan oil minister has been instructed to cooperate fully with the Iraqi oil minister at the OPEC conference to achieve the aspired objectives.

2. Libya believes that the price of a barrel of oil must be $25 immediately.

3. Agreement should be reached on the production ceiling and on quotas to achieve this objective.

4. Libya believes that Kuwait's quota must not exceed 1.25 million barrels per day, and the United Arab Emirates quota must not exceed 700,000 barrels a day.

Correction to Ministers Support $20 Price

LD2607105590

Tehran IRNA in English at 1013 GMT on 26 July carries a service message which supplies the following correction to the item headlined "Says Ministers Support $20 Price," published in the 26 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 8.

Column two, paragraph two, only sentence, should read ...production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels per day... [correcting "billion" to read "million"]

Egypt

Al-Baz on Peace Process, U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN2607193790 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
26 Jul 90 p 15

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs and first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, by Yusuf al-Sharif in Cairo on 20 July]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Sharif] Cairo newspapers report Syria's readiness to join the Arab Cooperation Council. Was this subject discussed during President Mubarak's talks with President al-Asad?

[Al-Baz] Talks did not address this subject, especially since Syria itself has expressed no desire for it. If it desired to do so, it would be logical for it to communicate this not only to Egypt but also to the other ACC member states. Practically speaking, it would not be logical for Syria to sit with Iraq in the ACC before resolving its tense relations with it. For this to occur, there is a minimum level that has not yet been attained. It is natural that such a step should be preceded by healing the present rift in relations with Iraq. Once this is achieved, Syria may or may not decide to join the ACC. What is important is that relations should develop and improve so that tension between the two countries will be neutralized; then, relations will gradually improve.

[Al-Sharif] Back to the Palestine question and issues related to it. I think the question asked by the entire Arab homeland is: To what extent and until what time will this Israeli intransigence and rejection of all peace initiatives continue, at a time when the Palestinian and Arab concessions are increasing in a bid to prove that we seek peace and that we are worthy of dialogue for peace?

[Al-Baz] In my opinion, the Palestinian movement has not made a single concession to Israel. This is an unequivocal truth. What is a concession? A concession is not that you change your proposal; it means that you change your attitude, and instead of demanding everything you think is possible, you demand only what is possible and forget or abandon the rest. You may say I know I can do this and that, but because of the difficulty of the issue I will not demand everything from you, but I ask that some of the demands be fulfilled.

[Al-Sharif] In the light of this equation, has the PLO not taken steps or positions that have been considered some sort of concession to the principles of the Palestine question?

[Al-Baz] Those who claim there were Palestinian concessions forget the following facts:

1. The PLO has not abandoned a single demand that it believes is possible to achieve. Anyone who says that PLO could have demanded all of Palestine on which Israel is established, but relinquished this and began to call for an independent Palestinian state only in the occupied territory, is mistaken, because this would be impossible. If we say that we seek to regain the whole territory, then the whole world, not only Israel, will be against us. This means we will not be able to mobilize the power we need, and resorting to this impossible approach would mean that we support the continuation of the conflict between the Arabs within a cycle of continuous Arab-Israeli wars. Hence, the Arabs did not consider regaining all of Palestine, but only the West Bank and Gaza, the occupied territories, where they could establish the State of Palestine. Regaining all of the Palestinian soil means the total eviction of Israel. Hence, the position taken by the PLO represented the maximum of the Palestinian and Arab demands—a Palestinian Arab state on the Arab territory occupied in 1967, which consists of the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

And so Israeli occupation must end completely and all settlements dismantled, and an independent Palestinian state must be established in this area. The PLO has proposed that an independent Palestinian state be set up on this evacuated territory. It has stuck to this demand in its entirety.

2. It is said that the PLO has recognized Israel and Israel's right to exist without Israel recognizing anything. But this is not true. The PLO has not issued a declaration recognizing Israel or anything of the kind. The PLO has only expressed its readiness to enter into peace talks and, within the framework of the peace process would recognize Israel's right to exist in return for the latter recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self- determination. In other words, it is a recognition conditional on Israel's recognition of Palestinian rights, and this is quite natural. Other Arab states say they are prepared to engage Israel in talks under certain conditions. Take Syria's position that it does not mind peaceful relations provided Israel accepts the need to withdraw from the occupied Arab land. The same goes for Jordan and the rest of the Arab states. The PLO has expressed its readiness to recognize certain Israeli rights if Israel recognizes Palestinian rights. All that the PLO did was to correct the image of Palestinian demands and the Palestinian case to the world and a large section of the Israeli public opinion, which had been misguided. The result was that a substantial number of Israelis now believe that the Palestinians do want peace, whereas in the past, on the strength of some statements by Palestinian leaders and Arabs, they thought the Palestinians wanted to uproot them. These statements had given the impression that the Palestinians wanted to throw the Israelis into the sea, and this point was used to mobilize world public opinion against the Palestinians and the Arabs. Israel had used this argument to oppose Palestinian demands, even if it meant going to war.

[Al-Sharif] Despite U.S. contentions that it is putting pressure on the new Israeli Government to respond to peace overtures, Washington has not taken any measures to resume dialogue with the PLO. How can Egypt get the Americans to budge from this position?

[Al-Baz] Egypt would like the United States to do two things:

First, to resume the dialogue with the PLO, although the dialogue is not important in itself, especially since it has not produced any dramatic results; it is important as a symbolic act and indication that the United States recognizes the Palestinian people as a distinct political and human entity, recognizes their representatives, and talks to them as legitimate representatives. We think the U.S. refusal to allow Yasir 'Arafat into the United States to speak to the UN Security Council is wrong. This is because, as the host nation, the United States is supposed to abide by its commitments. Not that we are not aware that the U.S. position on that score is not rooted in principles, but is due to the pressure of the Zionist lobby in the United States and on decisionmakers in Washington. It is up to the PLO to readjust its position in order for the dialogue to be allowed to continue. If the PLO thinks the dialogue is all-important, it may need to enter into indirect contacts before direct dialogue is resumed with the United States. If, on the other hand, the PLO does not think the dialogue is that important, it has the choice.

The dialogue is about each party acquainting itself with and influencing the other. The United States is expected to develop its position on the Palestinian question and it has come close to recognizing self-determination for the Palestinians. The Bush Administration has focused on the land-for-peace formula and the need to end Israeli occupation, and these are commendable planks in the American policy. The American position could be developed by taking a more determined position on the subject of settlements. Previously, the United States looked on settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace. But in the Reagan years, the United States ceased to call settlement activity illegal and an obstacle to peace. We now urge the United States to shoulder its responsibilities and call for correcting the American stand. The United States will then be expected to recognize explicitly the Palestinian right to self-determination. Successive U.S. administrations had argued that they cannot endorse the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, since such recognition would be interpreted by world opinion as the establishment of an independent Palestinian state—something the United States cannot accept. If that is really the case, then the United States can say that it recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to a state that enters into a confederal relationship with Jordan and other Arab countries. It is important then that, given Israel's intransigence and lack of any cooperation with American, Arab, and international efforts, to ask the question: What is to be done? If the United States is convinced it is taking a stand at loggerheads with justice and right, and acting contrary to American interests in the region, Washington must impose sanctions on Israel. The United States must take a stand separate from Israel's and make it clear that it does not endorse Israel's policies. Israel will have to enter into negotiations with all Arab parties that have committed themselves to the peace option, including the Palestinians.

[Al-Sharif] Are you saying the United States must adopt a definite position unprejudicial to Israel?

[Al-Baz] I am also calling on the United States not to attempt to force anything on Israel. We now hear spokesmen for Israel and the United States saying: Why do you want to impose anything on Israel, when it is a U.S. friend and ally? And have you been able to impose anything on the world for you to impose anything on Israel? Why Israel, of all nations? Is it because it receives aid from the United States when other countries such as Egypt and Turkey also receive U.S. assistance? What is it that you have forced on Egypt, Turkey, and the Philippines and Europe, which benefited from the "Marshall" plan? Is it because Israel is a small nation? We should be calling on the United States to say loud and clear that it does not go along with Israel's policies. For our part, we must determine our demands without necessarily imposing them on Israel. If the United States should crystallize such a position, it would have a great impact on Israeli public opinion, politicians, and government. [passage omitted]

Paper on Efforts To Resume U.S.-PLO Talks

NC2507115490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—In its next edition, which will appear on 27 July, the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that Egypt has not asked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to expel Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the PLO and that 'Arafat lacks the authority to do so.

A responsible Egyptian source affirmed that Egypt does not interfere in the PLO's affairs. Egypt, he said, explained to the U.S. Administration 'Arafat's difficulty in dismissing Abu al-'Abbas in view of the latter's status as a representative elected by the Palestine National Council. The source pointed out that Egypt has begun talks with the U.S. Administration on resuming the dialogue at 'Arafat's request. Egypt's task, he noted, was confined to conveying to 'Arafat the circumstances under which the United States would deem it appropriate to resume the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He added: Egypt's negotiations with the U.S. Administration on this issue has led to a considerable easing of the U.S. intransigence over resuming the dialogue.

Commentary on Strength of U.S.-Israeli Relations

NC2307182090 Cairo Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Commentary by former Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's decision to postpone the meeting of the joint U.S.-Israeli committee on military aid to Israel is an important event. Is it a mere transient event or is it a turning point in U.S.-Israeli relations? Many observers are now trying to clarify this point, particularly as the U.S. Administration has not given any clear explanation for this postponement.

If we really want to find an accurate explanation for this event, then we must look at it within the framework of U.S.-Israeli relations as a whole. There are in fact three principal bases for this relationship.

The first is U.S. support for Israel's security, or more accurately, U.S. protection of Israel's security. The United States has shown this commitment on more than one occasion. Its support for and protection of Israeli security is best exemplified by the strategic cooperation agreement which the United States and Israel signed in 1983. Another example of this commitment is the agreement according to which Israel is given the opportunity to participate in the Star Wars research that is going on in the United States. This shows us the depth and strength of the relationship between the United States and Israel in this sphere.

The second basis is U.S. political protection for Israel and political cover in many cases for all Israeli conduct. The most prominent proof and example of this is probably the recent U.S. veto which prevented the Security Council from sending a committee on a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. U.S. political protection for Israel in fact challenges any international attempt to condemn Israel or to impose any sanctions on it.

The third basis—which is no less important than the other two—is U.S. economic support for Israel. This is a constant support, dating back to Israel's establishment and continuing to this day. The most prominent example of this is the agreement signed by the two countries in 1985 which gave Israel the right to export its products to the United States without having to pay any customs duty on them. Israel is probably the only country that enjoys this right in the United States.

Thus, U.S.-Israeli relations are based on strong and firm foundations and they reflect a strong and close link between Israel and the United States. The recent event is undoubtedly a very important phenomenon and highlights one type of U.S. Administration anger with Israel.

No motive has been given by the U.S. Administration. How can this be explained? We can say that there is a basic agreement concerning the broad lines of the relationship between the United States and Israel, particularly when it comes to the Middle East crisis. But at times, Israel exceeds the limits of U.S. interests. It is believed that the recent U.S. stand is a reaction that shows the U.S. Administration's anger with the Israeli stand. This is nothing new. We saw examples of this when Israeli forces entered Lebanon and when differences arose between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration over the form and ways in which Israel behaved. But such differences do not constitute a change in U.S. policy toward Israel, nor will they go so far as to call in question the basics of the firm and close Israeli-U.S. relations.

East Europe Impact on U.S. Foreign Aid Viewed

JN2607093290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Jul 90 p 6

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Egypt and U.S. Aid"]

[Text] Foreign aid is an important clause in the foreign policies of the big powers. It is the lubricant which smoothens their relations with the developing countries and thus preserves their political, economic, and strategic interests in those countries.

At one time, the United States was the largest granter of foreign aid and loans in the world by virtue of its vast capabilities and interests. Today, however, Japan is leading the United States and the other rich industrial countries, considering the ratio of its foreign aid to its gross national product.

Still, the size of U.S. aid to Egypt since the eighties has continued to be an important factor in the political and economic relations between the two countries. Egypt's share of total U.S. foreign aid is the highest after Israel. Pakistan takes third place.

The foreign aid issue has recently been the subject of a wide debate in the United States, especially after Republican minority leader Senator Dole called for a reduction of this aid and a revision of its distribution to stop Israel from getting the lion's share. The debate was prompted by two factors: the mounting deficit in the U.S. budget, and American commitment to help the countries of Eastern Europe achieve full democratic and economic independence and finally disengage from the socialist system and Soviet influence. So it is clear that any change in this aid will have a direct effect on Egypt's share of the aid.

We in Egypt must understand that a revision of U.S. foreign aid to meet U.S. obligations toward the countries of Latin America and Eastern Europe is almost definite. Washington is now prepared even to give aid to the Soviet Union now that President Bush has gone back on promise not to increase taxation.

Those who support increased aid to the countries of Eastern Europe say that economic aid to these countries will, in turn, enable them to help the developing countries.

Even if Egypt's share of U.S. aid remains the same, Egyptian debt to the United States, which amounts to $12 billion, will remain one of the outstanding issues of mutual concern in the continuous contacts to find a solution to it within the context of Egypt's chronic problem, which is the foreign debt problem.

Kuwait Ambassador Holds News Conference on Iraq

LD2507171590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1535 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 25 (KUNA)—Kuwait's ambassador to Egypt 'Abd al-Razak al-Kandari on Wednesday said positive steps toward solving the sudden Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis will appear shortly.

At a press briefing held after meeting with the Egyptian deputy premier and foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Kandari expressed hope that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis would be a summer cloud in Arab relations.

He indicted that during a meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid he expressed Kuwait's appreciation of Egypt's efforts to remove inter-Arab disputes.

Mubarak, during brief visits to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia yesterday to solve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute, described his talks with Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials upon departure from Kuwait as "successful."

Speaking of the possibility of a speedy settlement of the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq, Al-Kandari expressed belief that "with the Arab efforts and with the wise Iraqi and Kuwaiti policy, we could reach a solution to solve the dispute."

Asked whether the Kuwaiti and the Iraqi foreign ministers could possibly meet on the sidelines of the OIC ministerial meeting, scheduled for July 31 in Cairo, Al-Kandari believed that relations between the two sisterly countries will return to their normal atmosphere before then.

Papers Praise Mubarak Peace Mission

NC2707090090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo dailies continue to highlight President Husni Mubarak's visit to Baghdad, Kuwait, and Jeddah and his efforts to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis.

The banner headlines of AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH report the start of the implementation of what was agreed upon during this tour to clear the air, particularly the halt of the media campaigns between Iraq and Kuwait. AL-AHRAM's main headline reads: "Media campaigns between Iraq and Kuwait halted as the first step toward containing the crisis." AL-AKHBAR's banner headline says: "Mubarak's trip begins to achieve positive results," and AL-JUMHURIYAH's headline says "Two urgent messages from Mubarak to Saddam and Jabir."

The three dailies' editorials deal with the same issue. In its editorial entitled "Encouraging signs of containing the crisis," AL-AHRAM writes that encouraging signs have appeared that confirm a solution to the recent crisis between Iraq and Kuwait and Iraq and the United Arab Emirates is imminent as a result of the sincere Arab efforts and the extraordinary efforts of President Husni Mubarak. It stresses that the presence of full coordination between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the positive participation of Jordan's King Husayn have contributed largely to the speedy containment of the crisis within a pan-Arab framework that does not leave room for any attempts to sow division by foreign parties who want to disrupt Arab ranks.

AL-AHRAM then stresses that President Mubarak's shuttle tour, aimed at getting in direct touch with the crisis, has proved that it is the ideal way to quickly narrow gaps between views and make the concerned parties realize that their responsibilities require an open mind which seeks dialogue without stubbornness and fanaticism. It says that the positive good spirit shown by the parties have greatly helped the success of President Mubarak's peace mission, which was more of a goodwill endeavor and an intensive effort to contain the crisis in the spirit of Arab brotherhood and solidarity than one of mere mediation. It adds that containment of this crisis requires the blessing, encouragement, and backing of all the Arab countries because the present stage is critical and the Arab nation is facing immense and diverse responsibilities in the various pan-Arab arenas of action, and these will top the agenda of the next Arab summit in Cairo. AL-AHRAM then says that it would be unjust to the Arab struggle if the Arab nation allows such transient disputes to impede or disrupt the march that has begun because of a clear atmosphere.

Under the headline "Close the gaps of sedition," the AL-AKHBAR editorial says that some parties' quick rush to exploit any dispute between two Arab countries, to widen it, and to appear as defender of one of the parties and to show willingness to intervene on its side was expected. It adds that these stands reveal the eagerness of the Arab nation's enemies to see disputes erupt between some Arab countries in order to deepen them in every way possible. It notes Washington's rush to declare its readiness to help the Gulf states and protect them with its naval forces in the Gulf. It adds that President Mubarak has already warned those trying to fish in muddy waters and to increase tension in the Middle East, stressing that the Arabs themselves bear the major burden for foiling these wicked moves and they must be eager to close any gap used by the enemy to break their ranks.

In its editorial entitled "Arab solidarity and peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH praises President Mubarak's Gulf tour to resolve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis and says that it is a goodwill endeavor and an intensive effort to contain the situation, defuse the danger, and keep the situation within the Arab framework. It adds that the ordinary Arab citizen has followed with admiration and affection President Mubarak's efforts to defend Arab solidarity and protect it from any jolts that might cause a crack in it at this fateful and decisive stage. It goes on to say that peace and stability in the Arab region cannot be achieved without a firm basis of solidarity and joint coordination. In conclusion, the paper notes that Egyptian contacts are

continuing with various Arab brothers to ensure the solution agreed upon during the 16-hour peace mission and to implement the course established for resolving the dispute between the two fraternal countries.

'Tolerance' To Contain Inter-Arab Disputes Urged

JN2407074090 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 14

["An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] When we praised God for ending the estrangement between Egypt and Syria, and when we thought that the Arab atmosphere had been cleared of all differences and crises, an argument between Iraq and Kuwait burst forth and the relationship between Yasir 'Arafat and Egypt deteriorated. It is as if we are plagued by a curse and fated to run into disputes whenever we agree, and to exchange slander campaigns whenever we hug one another. This is happening at a time when the two archenemies, the United States and the USSR, are getting closer to one another, reaching agreements, and ending differences. Amazing results have been witnessed in this regard.

How could these two states forget, in 24 hours, differences which had simmered over a 70-year period? How did these two states manage to forget the slander campaigns, violent media attacks, and threats to use atomic and hydrogen bombs? As for us; states which speak one language; struggled together over many long years; and which are bound by strong ties of friendship, fraternal ties, and ties of kinship, in 24 minutes we forgot all these things. We overlooked the ties, friendships, and common daily endeavors, and entered into a public dispute which might bring about a conflagration in the entire region.

We cannot extinguish the fire by adding fuel to it. We believe that we must exercise self-control and bridle our feelings. We should not react to accusations with counteraccusations and thus turn the arena into a battlefield. Whenever we had a dispute in the past, we burnt bridges which later we had to reconstruct. We severed ties and then resumed them. Inter-Arab differences become transient when we contain them through tolerance and selflessness.

We do not want to serve our enemies and realize their dreams by clashing with one another or by allowing them to swallow us. We must withstand, endure, and forgive, because the state with the ability to endure is the one which is capable of achieving victory.

We do not want a return of Arab divisions, envisaging the formation of a camp comprising Iraq against an alliance comprised of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states despite the fact that the latter states supported Iraq and shared with it their means of livelihood throughout its war with Iran. We do not want to fight anybody. Likewise, we do not want the launching of fronts and camps in a homeland fragmented into motionless entities. We do not want our homeland's entities to meet and content themselves with condemnation and media campaigns when the big powers conspire against them with a view to encroaching on their rights.

To have differences of opinion when we are strong is understandable. But we cannot understand how we can have differences when our countries are threatened and when the big powers defy us and harbor enmity toward us.

We are not after a war of words. We seek neither differences nor crises. We want unity of ranks to confront the dangers and mistakes staring us in the face.

Al-Baz Gives Message to Envoy for 'Arafat

NC2507114490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's office for political affairs, met with Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal this morning. Sources at the Palestinian information office in Cairo said that Dr. al-Baz delivered a short message to Kamal which he will convey to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The message deals with preparing the atmosphere for a meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Arafat.

Meanwhile, the same sources said that Kamal and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foriegn affairs, discussed Egypt's efforts within the Socialist International to prompt leaders of this nongovernmental organization to support the peace process. They also discussed developments in the Palestinian stand and efforts to resume the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Papers Critical of Remarks by 'Arafat, 'Aziz

JN2307113690

[Editorial report] Cairo papers of 21 July publish articles critical of Yasir 'Arafat and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz for their alleged criticism of Egypt in speeches to the Arab League Ministerial Council's emergency session in Tunis on 16 July.

On page 20, AL-AHRAM carries the 300-word "Stands" column by Anis Mansur which Mansur begins by satirically excusing 'Arafat for cursing Egypt since the Egyptians do so themselves. Mansur then accuses the Palestinians of having sold Palestine rather than part with the Wailing Wall as 'Arafat claims al-Nahhas Pasha had asked the Palestinians to do. He says that had the Palestinians "adopted al-Nahhas Pasha's view, or had we adopted Habib Bourguiba's 40 years ago, history would be different." Mansur then asks 'Arafat if he will have the cheek to set foot in Cairo again. "Millions of Egyptians loathe the return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt," he says, and the distance between the building and the Nile is still too far for them to be able to dump it into the river.

On its back page, AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes the 500-word "The Dividing Lines" column by Chief Editor Samir Rajab in which he describes the Palestinians as "satanically obsessed" with hampering Egypt's attempts to "plant the roots of the new Arab solidarity in solid and deep ground," such as Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation and efforts to bring Iraq and Syria together again. According to the columnist, 'Arafat was urged by "some from within the PLO" to call for an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis on the pretext of discussing the United States' suspension of the dialogue with the PLO. The true aim was to attack Egypt, Rajab states. He concludes that "'Arafat is playing a dangerous game against Egypt and its pan-Arab role, assisted, in doing so, by certain parties that are not all above suspicion."

On its front page, AKHBAR AL-YAWM begins a 3,000-word article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah in which he accuses Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz—a former colleague—of having lost his credibility because he "intentionally erred in a historical fact" in his speech to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis at the "instigation of Yasir 'Arafat."

He then dwells on the subject of 'Arafat, who "was honest with himself when he mocked Egypt's economic suffering by revealing his meagre information that American aid had come to the point where Egypt was receiving wheat to feed its people week by week."

Continuing the article on page 8, Sa'dah says that although 'Arafat claims to be a "Palestinian national with an Egyptian identity," he has wasted no occasion to "stab" this Egyptian identity. Sa'dah points out and corrects mistakes he perceives in 'Arafat's speech to the Arab League Ministerial Council and then asks rhetorically about the kind of pressure Egypt puts on the Palestinians to force them into solutions that they do not want. He asks: What does Egypt stand to gain from doing so?

This was neither a surprise nor a shock to us, he says. "The only surprise and great shock came from Tariq 'Aziz" when "he supported 'Arafat's allusions and implications as though they had agreed on them beforehand." He asks 'Aziz, a foreign minister of a fraternal country and member, along with Egypt, of the Arab Cooperation Council: "How can you know so much, yet doubt these facts , go along with the Palestinian slanders, and also cast your own characteristic doubts, when I am certain that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has not agreed and will not agree with you?"

Sa'dah denies that anyone can direct Egypt's policy: "We do not allow anyone—irrespective of our pride in their country or leadership—to threaten us with such base and irresponsible accusations." "I am confident," says Sa'dah, "that Tariq 'Aziz will soon rectify the words transmitted to the Egyptian people when he addressed the Arab League Ministerial Council."

The writer proceeds to criticize Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi for "not performing his prime duty of containing the dispute taking place between two Arab countries." The crisis has exceeded both his capabilities and the level of his contacts. What is needed, Sa'dah states, is for all Arab leaders to resume their mediation to reach a settlement accepted by all concerned parties.

Concluding, the writer sees no solution to the crisis between Egypt and the Palestinians since these created crises have become characteristic of Palestinian-Egyptian relations over the years. Speaking in ironic terms, Sa'dah remarks that every time these "verbal battles" are delayed more than a month, they start wondering when the Palestinian leaders will wage the next one.

He comments that nevertheless Egyptian leaders must not get angry, because this situation is not of their making, but that of the Palestinian leaders. He refutes the PLO statement accusing the media of misinterpreting 'Arafat's speech in Tunis and says this was neither the first nor the last time the Palestinians spoke ill of Egyptians.

He ends with a "last and innocent" question to 'Arafat: "When will we see you in Cairo, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], embracing President Mubarak"?

Al-Sharif Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC2107213390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] In a meeting chaired by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi tonight, the cabinet discussed a report submitted by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Egypt's current moves both on the Arab and the international levels.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced this, stating that the report covered President Husni Mubarak's talks with African leaders during the African summit conference in Addis Ababa, and his excellency's discussions with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The report also dealt with the implementation of measures resulting from the talks which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held with President Mubarak. The cabinet endorsed the executive programs which the Egyptian and Syrian delegations, led by Dr. Sidqi and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, agreed upon. These programs aim to serve the higher interests of both countries and promote joint Arab action.

The information minister added that 'Abd-al-Majid's report dealt with the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting held recently in Tunis, in which Egypt participated with a delegation led by the Egyptian ambassador in Tunis. The report also included the discussions held at the conference and the emerging negative results which are not in line with the true status and higher interests of Arab action.

He pointed out that, afterward, Dr. Sidqi reviewed a report on the economic situation, the recent talks with the IMF, Egypt's proposals to the IMF within the framework of the economic reform policy, and the gradual steps Egypt is taking to deal with the economic problem while maintaining a social balance. Dr. Sidqi noted Egypt's future measures with the IMF designed to obtain a final resolution of the problem.

Then, the information minister said, the cabinet reviewed a report by the interior minister in which the minister asserted that the security situation is stable, despite the occurrence of limited incidents which constitute a breach of the law and an infringement of the freedom of the public as well as an attempt to prevent a number of security personnel from carrying out their duty to defend society. He noted that the perpetrators have been referred to the investigation department.

He asserted that security authorities are performing their duties with vigilance, competence, and firmness to preserve the security of society and the public's interests and freedom, according to law and legitimacy. The interior minister praised the citizens' awareness and cooperation with security forces.

The information minister pointed out that the cabinet also discussed a report on the supply situation submitted by the minister of supply. In his report, the supply minister noted the availability of strategic stockpiles of wheat and flour until the end of November, in addition to the existing supplies of local wheat amounting to approximately half a million tons. He said that the procurement process is still continuing. He also referred to agreements concluded between Egypt and five countries to import wheat and flour until the end of this year. He pointed out that the stockpiles of basic commodities such as sugar, oil, and fat, are available.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2004 GMT on 21 July in a similar report adds: "The Foreign Ministry's report also dealt with events and developments in the current crisis between Iraq on the one hand and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the other, the statement which the Presidential Office issued in this regard, and Egypt's contacts on the political leadership level with fraternal Arab countries to contain this crisis. The information minister stated that the cabinet also discussed a report on the meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, due to open at the end of this month."]

Syrian-Egyptian Rapprochement Examined

JN2307140690 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 pp 4-6

["News Report" by editor in chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad]

[Text] Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad held talks for more than 15 hours within the three-day visit, a period when the two presidents were not separated from each other. They discussed the future of peace, Iraqi-Syrian relations, and the current conditions in our Arab world within the framework of a comprehensive view of all international developments and their impact on the Middle East.

And, for more than 10 hours during the visit, the Egyptian and Syrian delegations sat down at the table to agree on a new program for unprecedented Egyptian-Syrian cooperation within the framework of an ambitious plan that takes into account the special relationship between Cairo and Damascus.

The following points can be deduced from the visit:

First: There are no longer large political differences between the two countries to obstruct their strong, deep cooperation in all fields. There is also substantial agreement that a comprehensive and just peace is a correct choice and a goal worthy of struggle and sacrifice.

Damascus does not show enough enthusiasm for the idea of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, because it believes that such a dialogue will not yield any results under Shamir's government and would be difficult to achieve. However, Damascus does not conceal the fact that it accepts the idea of the international conference as the basis for direct negotiations with the Israelis. It also believes there is nothing to prevent it from accepting an international conference based on recognizing Resolution 242, on which the big powers do not impose a solution from the outside, and in which the role of the five big powers is confined to providing the guarantees for a comprehensive settlement, including security arrangements on the Golan Heights similar to those in the Sinai.

Second: The meeting of Cairo and Damascus is, in the final analysis, a kind of rearrangement in the new Arab reality in light of the international developments and their impact on the Middle East. This is because Damascus believes that its meeting with Cairo will help restore balance to the Middle East arena, which was shaken dramatically by the absence of allied powers that used to support Arab rights and bolster their fighting capability. Cairo believes that its meeting with Damascus will help boost efforts toward a just settlement within the framework of the comprehensive solution that will preserve Arab rights and provide the region with a peace that will allow it to turn its attention to development and economic progress.

Third: Such cooperation between Cairo and Damascus, no matter how distinguished it may be, takes place within the framework of a greater Arab solidarity, which dismisses the idea of axes, excludes the previous categories and divisions, and supports the need to terminate remaining inter-Arab differences because the situation can no longer afford fragmentation and division.

If it is difficult to specifically pinpoint what took place between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad during their 15-hours of bilateral talks, then reviewing what occurred

in the Syrian-Egyptian delegations' meetings will perhaps throw some light on these talks.

From the beginning, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam talked about the contemporary developments our world is undergoing and their possible repercussions on the Middle East region. What the vice president said hardly contained any difference of opinions that could distance the viewpoints of Cairo and Damascus.

Part of what he said was:

1. The world is now ushering in a new stage which is widely different from the previous one, which was characterized by the cold war, the balance of power, and the existence of two poles. This new stage requires the Arabs to have a clear vision to safeguard their rights amid new international circumstances that might seem more favorable to the Israelis.

2. It seems that certain dangers are bound to emerge if the interests of our Arab world are placed on the fringes of events, especially in this new age when the USSR seems more engrossed in its interests and concerns, the United States is monopolizing—albeit temporarily—the decisionmaking process, and the Arabs are losing many of their allies which used to side with and support Arab stands, but are now, at best, neutral.

3. The present circumstances leave the Arabs no other choice but to establish close-knit Arab solidarity with a Syrian-Egyptian accord as the major link and linchpin—because Egypt and Syria constitute the key to war or peace and because Cairo and Damascus rapprochement means the establishment of Arab solidarity on a firm and solid basis which can acheive a balance in power relations in the region and guarantee the continuation of the Arab solidarity march toward true pan-Arab goals.

4. If the sound starting point is through close relations between Cairo and Damascus, which constitute a foundation for a wide-scale Arab solidarity, then it is our duty to devise a special and distinguished formula which puts the relations of the two countries on the right track. We have had strong, deep-rooted relations and alliances throughout history. In fact, we were one people and one state for most of the time, especially in times of difficulty when the Arab nation was subjected to grave dangers: Together we fought the Moguls, the Tartars, and the crusaders. Our soldiers walked together in Golan and Sinai on glorious 6 October.

5. The Syrian delegation comes today with the strong and sound hopes that we might construct new Syrian-Egyptian relations through a nonconventional framework, because it is not enough to declare that we have agreed to activate bilateral relations committees or increase the volume of mutual deals between the two countries, or agreed to establish experts' committees for coordination and integration in all fields. All these steps are insufficient to meet the demands of Syrian-Egyptian relations, as they should be. We are prepared to accept other political options which upgrade the level of these relations to the degree of unity. We believe that the correct starting point is to agree to establish a unified political leadership of the two countries, by Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad, because without political will, our joint action will stumble in the maze of disagreement between the viewpoints of experts and technicians.

The Syrian vice president's proposal opened up an expanded and profound discussion in which the members of the two delegations spoke very frankly. What we need, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said, is a unified political leadership of the two countries as the basis for expanded Arab solidarity. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, Safwat al-Sharif, and Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz also spoke, expressing their belief that:

—What was stated by the Syrian side about the international changes was wholly true. Because there are Arab fears that these changes may harm our Arab world's interests, the sound solution lies in an expanded Arab solidarity, because through solidarity, the Arabs can protect their future interests with their own capability. This large-scale Arab solidarity can be achieved only by ending Arab differences; refusing to exclude any Arab party; and blocking any chance to destroy this solidarity as a result of others' fears of the possibility of the establishment of conflicting Arab axes, of seeing ourselves once again in an Arab world that is governed by doubts and mutual mistrust, and fear of returning to the outdated divisions and classifications.

—No one can deny the facts of history which affirm that Cairo and Damascus are the keys to both war and peace, no one can ignore the profound feelings that link the two peoples, and no one can deny that unity now may be the only correct reply to current challenges. Tiny states will have no future or a place in a world that is seeking unity in large and strong entities in which its economic interests and political will are united.

—Egyptian-Syrian unity, which was achieved as a result of the existence of a political will in both Cairo and Damascus, asserted to an Arab world accustomed to division and fragmentation that unity was a goal that could be achieved. This was one best achievements of that unity's. But the political will of the two countries was not enough to guarantee a continuation and strength for that newly born unity. However, a handful of adventurers destroyed the unity under the cover of darkness, and consequently destroyed a great Arab dream because that unity was established on merely a political agreement without a solid foundation of interests between the two countries and because it remained an emotional momentum that eroded with the accumulation of small unresolved mistakes. As a result, these adventurers stole the remainder of that unity and left only sorrow over the loss of a great dream.

The Arabs have been through not a few unionist experiences since the Egyptian-Syrian experiment, and yet none of them has lasted. Neither has any one of them met with general Arab approval or produced the embryonic Arab state. All these attempts at unity have proved to be nonstarters, having failed to take into account the

prerequisite of a communality and meshing of interests. For any unionist proposition to succeed, it must start with economics rather than politics, and work its way up from the bottom to the top. If a common market and economic unity are to be feasible, we should begin with coordination and end in integration. Then political unity will become the end result of well-established relations binding the peoples concerned.

Dr Kamal al-Janzuri cited the Arab common market notion that was floated in 1965 and the European Community, which was launched about the same time. While the Arab common market is still a dream, the Arabs having failed to advance beyond square one. The Europeans have come a long way since then; they are now approaching full-fledged economic unity whereby the continent could become politically united by the year 1992. He also cited the example of the two Germanies and Helmut Kohl's opting to kick off German unity with monetary union between East and West Germany.

And here Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam wondered: Why has the Arab common market failed to make any headway while the European common market proceeds smoothly?

As we all know, Khaddam says, the reason must be that there has not been enough political Arab will to make a reality of the Arab common market. Without political will, the Arab market project has remained ink on paper. In Europe, however, the necessary political will was there, and so the common market became a reality. Thus, unless the two countries forge a common political will, chances are that we will lose our way in the labyrinth of differences between experts and technocrats.

Khaddam adds: This is not to say that we are seeking immediate unity, much as it seems desirable. Neither are we pressing for a common market between Syria and Egypt here and now, much as we want this to happen. What we want is for the unprecedented close cooperation between Cairo and Damascus to be nurtured by the political echelons of the two countries within the framework of an ambitious political strategy based on the special relationship between Cairo and Damascus.

The first meeting concluded on the understanding that each delegation will draw up its own concept and that the two delegations would meet the following day.

On the following day, the Egyptian delegation put forward for consideration a plan calling for committees of experts to explore the potential for cooperation and coordination in various areas with the understanding that the higher committee will convene under the chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers next October to study the recommendations of the committee and decide on priority projects for implementation.

The Syrian delegation had put forward another plan for discussion. It proposed the establishment of a higher political committee to serve as a political leadership for the two countries. The committee would hold regular meetings to formulate a view on how the cooperation between Cairo and Damascus should proceed. A higher executive committee headed by the prime ministers of the two countries would then assume the responsibility of putting this view into action.

The Syrians asked: Why should we begin with committees of experts?

The Egyptians replied: Because we do not know each other's capabilities. Experts should meet first to identify the various fields of cooperation.

The Egyptians asked: What do you mean by a higher political committee to serve as a political leadership for the two countries? Such a formula may be unconstitutional, because it suggests we endorsed a joint political leadership, which is beyond our constitutional jurisdiction.

The Syrians agreed to change the wording to "setting up a higher committee from the the political leadership of the two countries." The original formula was certainly unconstitutional.

The meeting ended in an agreement to integrate the two plans into one that provides for the establishment of a higher committee from the political leaderships of the two countries. The commitee will meet once a year to follow the activity of the higher executive committee, which will meet once every six months under one of the two prime ministers.

The plan also stipulates that the expert committees end their meetings within a month. This will be followed by meetings for the various ministerial committees. The higher executive committee should meet by next October to discuss the projects of joint cooperation presented by the ministerial committees.

It was also agreed to form various ministerial committees in 11 fields of cooperation:

—Concerning energy and electricity, there will be cooperation in alternative energy, oil exploration, and a joint electric power grid.

—Concerning education, it was agreed to coordinate and unite school curricula and exchange scientific and educational expertise.

—Concerning economy, it was agreed to prevent double taxation and activate equal deals instead of foreign imports. Note: The Syrians stressed that they buy more than $400 million worth of goods every year, and that most of these goods have Egyptian-made substitutes.

—Concerning health, it was agreed to exchange expertise in the field of pharmaceuticals and to include drugs in the equal deals.

—Concerning culture, it was agreed to cooperate in the training of artists.

—Concerning information, it was agreed to accomplish the information cooperation protocol, benefit from the international satellite, and exchange live transmission.

What does all this mean?

—It means that what we said earlier was true; namely, that there is no longer an area of political differences between the two countries to prevent them from cooperating in all fields.
—This cooperation, no matter what its motives, is part of the process to reshape the Arab state of affairs on a new basis dictated by the current world changes.
—Regardless of how distinct this cooperation might be, it falls within the framework of a broader Arab solidarity that excludes axes, as well as previous categories and divisions.

Chinese Trade Official Arrives in Cairo

NC2307211990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2039 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—Shen Jueren, Chinese assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo tonight for a three-day visit.

The Chinese official said that he will meet with Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, to discuss ways of developing bilateral trade and investment opportunities for Chinese companies in Egypt. He announced that a delegation representing several Chinese companies will arrive in Cairo in early August for talks designed to encourage Chinese investments in Egyptian projects.

Libyan Reconstruction, Health Officials Depart

NC2007171990 Cairo MENA in English 1702 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—The Libyan reconstruction and land reclamation delegation, headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Jalil Yusuf, secretary of the People's Committee for New Communities, left here tonight, following a week-long visit to Egypt.

Before his departure, Dr. 'Abd-al-Jalil said that the Libyan delegation conferred with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; and Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and urban communities, on Egypt's experiment of establishing the new communities and benefiting from the Egyptian expertise in setting similar communities in Libya.

It was also agreed to set up a joint committee for drawing the executive programs for reconstructing south Libya, Dr. 'Abd-al-Jalil added.

Dr. Mustafa al-Zaydi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for Health, also left here tonight following a seven-day visit to Egypt, during which he and Health Minister Dr. Raghib Duwaydar discussed the possibility of establishing a joint medical plant to provide Libya with its medicinal needs.

Dr. al-Zaydi expressed his satisfaction before his departure with his visit to Egypt, saying that he tackled the integration between the two countries in the field of health.

He said that his visit was successful, indicating that Egypt and Libya are one country and that bilateral relations will be promoted in the near future.

Sudanese Official Leaves Cairo 23 Jul

NC2307063790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS], left Cairo early this morning following a four-day visit during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from RCCNS Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir.

In a predeparture statement, Col. al-Amin said he is carrying an oral message from President Mubarak to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, in response to the latter's message. [passage omitted]

Guinean Minister Leaves Cairo 25 Jul

NC2507074690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Ibrahim Sylla, Guinean minister of plan and international cooperation, left Cairo this morning at the end of a week-long visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Sylla headed his country's delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Guinean committee. A new executive program for the agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries was signed, and instruments for Egyptian scholarship and training grants to Guinea were exchanged.

Makramallah Leaves for Talks in Amman

NC2507093390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left Cairo for Amman before noon today for a week-long visit to Jordan.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. Makramallah said he will participate in the meetings due to begin later today to prepare for the Egyptian-Jordanian higher joint committee session which will open under the two countries' prime ministers on 28 July. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Maghreb Union Session

LD2507092590 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, July 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution arrived in Great Al-Jamahiriyah after attending the 2nd regular session of the council of the chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union concluding its meetings in sisterly Algeria.

The leader was received by Staff Major Jallud and Colonel Jabir.

Earlier yesterday afternoon he left Algiers and was seen off there at Boumedine Airport by President Bendjedid, Mr. Hamrouch, the premier, members of the government, members of the diplomatic missions accredited to Algeria and the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat 25 July

LD2507202390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] today received the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat.

Pan-Arab General Congress Drafts Resolutions

LD2607122990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The first session of the pan-Arab General People's Congress ended in Banghazi yesterday, during which it drafted the resolutions of the basic people's congresses adopted in its first meetings of this year.

During the final session, the final draft of the congress resolutions was read out. These resolutions stress the need for Arab unity as the decisive solution and response to all Zionist and imperialist threats and plots directed against the existence of this nation.

The resolutions stress the need to increase meetings and contacts with countries which are not hostile to the Arab nation and to launch a large-scale media campaign aimed at the Arab national who is fooled by Zionist propaganda.

The congress condemns U.S. imperialism for helping the Soviet Jews emigrate to occupied Palestine. It calls on friendly countries at the forefront the Soviet Union to stop the emigration.

The congress stresses that the great Jamahiriyah is the cradle for pan-Arabism and an international center for the free and honorable people of the world.

The congress calls for setting up vocational trade unions and links for the Arabs through the pan-Arab basic people's congresses. The congress also stresses the importance of the speech by the brother leader of the revolution during 1989 at the Nonaligned Movement summit in Belgrade, of adopting it as revolutionay program, and of fully believing in the speech delivered by the brother leader of the international revolution during the meeting of the International Islamic People's Leadership held in Tripoli in 1990 and emphasizes the significance of this speech.

The congress has decided to contribute financially, morally, and with human resources to the people's revolution currently being led by the revolutionaries of the generation of anger inside occupied Palestine.

Mauritania

President Returns From Maghreb Union Session

LD2307224190 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, returned to the capital a few moments ago from Algiers, where he took part in the second Presidential Council session of the Arab Maghreb Union [passage omitted]

President Receives Iraqi Transport Minister

LD2607021990 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, at noon today received Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Iraqi minister of transport and communications and personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Minister on Impact of Radio-TV Reorganization

AB1707125990 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 14 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The new program schedule for Radio Mauritania went into effect today. The launching ceremony for the new program schedule was performed by the minister of information at the conference hall of Broadcasting House in the presence of several personalities from the communications field.

Under this new schedule, broadcasting time has been extended by one hour at night. Thus, in the morning, our programs will begin at 0630 [local and GMT] and end at 0830. In the afternoon, we begin as usual at 1200 and continue until 1600; and in the evening, we begin at 1800 until 0100. [passage omitted]

In a news conference after the launching ceremony, Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed spoke about the reorganization of the organs of information and the independent press. Mohamed Moktar Ould Sid 'Mohamed gives the details:

[Sid 'Mohamed] Mr. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed first of all congratulated the radio personnel and the directorate for improving program contents since the reorganization of the information organs. Before television was conbined with radio, the minister pointed out, radio was producing quality programs, but the merging of the two organs resulted in the transfer of most of the human and material resources to the television sector to the detriment of radio, bringing about a drop in program quality. Radio and television had to be divided, giving each autonomy and its own personality to enable them assume their traditional missions.

The minister also recalled the aims of the new program schedule, which reflects the Mauritanian people's march towards progress and opening up to the world. He reaffirmed the interest the national directorate gives to the information sector for the cultural orientation of our people to cope with the many challenges thrown at us. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed said the publishing of CHAAB newspaper in its new form over the last two weeks and the launching today of the new radio program schedule constitute a satisfactory result of the new policy initiated six months ago by his ministry. Television, in its role, will also launch a new program schedule this August before television coverage is extended to the whole country in the first half of next year.

Concerning the private press, the mininster of information said the government favors it, as evidenced by the publishing licenses given recently to five specialized periodicals. This press will supplement the effort of the state press.

Concluding, the minister expressed optimism over the future of the press in Mauritania. But to achieve this, he pointed out, the public in general, and businessmen in particular, should give it the necessary support. To this end, he appealed to the public to develop reading and listening habits which are of great importance to modern man.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Decides Not To Join Arab Groupings

PM2607142390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sudan Goes Back on Joining Any Existing or New Arab Grouping"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Cairo sources that Sudan does not intend to join any of the existing Arab groupings, especially the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], and that the signing of an integration charter between Libya and Sudan aims at strengthening the two states' bilateral relations.

The sources said that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, made this decision after his idea of calling for setting up a new Arab grouping comprising Sudan, Libya, Egypt, and Syria was not accepted by the other three sides in view of Egypt's adherence to its membership of the ACC, Libya's adherence to its membership of the UMA, and Syria's reservation about the Arab groupings idea.

An authoritative source has said that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir was advised by some Arab parties not to affiliate Sudan with any Arab grouping so as not to affect the efforts being made to resolve the problem in the south or escalate the problem, out of fear that the Garang movement leaders might think that such an affiliation would strengthen the Sudanese Government's position in any future negotiations between the two sides.

Government To Close Overseas Missions

AB2507215690 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, July 24 (AFP)—Sudan is to close down an unspecified number of economic, trade, military and cultural missions attached to its embassies abroad in a bid to cut government spending, Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul said here Tuesday. He told the state news agency SUNA that the austerity measures would be introduced in mid-August and should entail savings of seven million dollars a year.

Garang 'Not Hostile to a Federal Solution'

AB2207211790 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 21 (AFP)—Colonel John Garang, the leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), has said that his rebel movement is "not hostile" to a federal solution for war-torn Sudan. In an interview from Addis Ababa published Saturday by the Cairo daily AL-GUMHURYA, Mr. Garang said that he still supported a "united Sudan" but that the size of the country "demands a certain decentralization." "We are not hostile to a federal solution," he said.

The leader of the Sudanese rebel army has so far rejected the federal solution proposed by the ruling junta in Khartoum which would enact different laws based on the different religions of the north and south. Mr. Garang, from the non-Moslem south, has stated that Sudanese citizens should be equal under a single legal system.

Accusing the military government in Khartoum of "having so far refused a peaceful solution," Mr. Garang again proposed a constitutional conference which would encompass all political and trade union forces, including the SPLA and the government. Mr. Garang said the government would be welcome despite the fact that it had seized power in a coup last year.

Meanwhile, a member of the ruling junta, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, said Saturday in Cairo that Khartoum was in favor of a dialogue with rebel forces to find a solution to the problem of south Sudan. Following a

meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, the Sudanese official said: "We want to find a solution to the problem of the South through dialogue because violence leads only to violence."

Col. Khalifah said he was ready to meet with the SPLA leader and announced that a national congress would he held in Khartoum on August 6 to decide on Sudan's future political structure.

However, Mr Garang in the interview with the Cairo daily said the junta was no more than "the military expression of the (fundamentalist) National Islamic Front." The goal of the government is to "dissolve the Army to replace it with a religious army," he said, adding that the government had already replaced career diplomats with "brother Moslems."

Col. Khalifah told the Cairo daily AL-AKBAR that 150,000 civilians were going to be armed over the next year to assure their own defense and back up the Army in the south.

Col. Khalifah said the Sudanese Army is engaged in an operation go
ith a fine tooth comb" and described rebel control in the south as limited.

Supply Convoys Arrive in Bahr Al-Ghazal

EA1907141890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Wau, Sudan, 19 July (SUNA)—The acting governor of Bahr al-Ghazal region, Andrew Kwach, has said the revolution has erupted to rescue the Sudan from the corruption of the partisan regime.

Addressing celebration organised here to mark the first anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, Kwach reviewed the achievements of the revolution including holding negotiations with the rebellion movement and convening the national dialogue conference on peace and the form of government.

Convoys carrying supply materials have started to arrive in the region for the first time since war broke out after the coming of the revolution government, he said.

He condemned the recent abortive coup attempt against the revolution, calling on the citizens to rally behind the revolution motto: "We eat from what we cultivate and wear what we manufacture".

Food Situation in Malakal Deteriorates

EA2207134590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1636 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jul (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Brig [Brigadier] Pio Yukwan has been informed on the deterioration of food situation in Malakal Town, Upper Nile region. Brig Yukwan, who is the general supervisor of the south, met here today with the director of operation for the World Food Programme, WFP, Peter Joffer, who told him that food consignment to Malakal would start by next August from Kosti through the Nile.

Relief items reached Yambio [western equatoria] from Uganda within the framework of Operation Lifeline, Joffer told Yukman.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Conveys 'Concern' to Iraqi Special Envoy

LD2507125890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from President Saddam Husayn. It was conveyed to his excellency this morning at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage by Mr. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, minister of transport and communications in the Iraqi Government and special envoy of Iraq's president. [passage omitted]

An informed source at the presidency said that President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali reiterated during his reception of the Iraqi envoy Tunisia's deep concern about the dispute between brotherly Iraq and Kuwait at a time when the Arab nation is facing many challenges. His excellency stressed the necessity of containing this dispute amicably and through mutual understanding in a way that enhances solidarity between brothers and consolidates their ranks.

Islamic Group's Spokesman Detained for Questioning

LD2507132590 Paris International Service in French 0637 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday evening the spokesman of al-Nahdah, Ali Laaridh, was once again detained for questioning by plainclothes policemen in front of his home in the suburbs of Tunis. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Boughezi] It seems as if the spokesman of the Islamic movement, which is not recognized, is once again being reproached for publishing and circulating a leaflet. Published at the beginning of the week and signed by Laaridh, it denounces what he calls the policy of exclusion which, in his opinion, his movement is being subjected to. In the same communique, the spokesman of al-Nahdah holds the Tunisian authorities responsible

for the deadlock; moreover, he accuses the administration and the party in power of wanting to dominate political life.

In recent months the communiques from al-Nahdah have become rare after the Tunisian Islamic movement was authorized to publish a weekly newspaper. However, the newspaper was suspended for three months in mid-June, and legal proceedings were taken against its director for inciting infringement of the laws in force in the country. The offending article was signed by the number-one person in the Islamic movement, Rachad Ghannouchi, who lives in voluntary exile. It analyzed the nature of the relations between the state and the people following the election victory of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria. Rida Boughezi, Tunis, RFI.

Spokesman Released

LD2607121390 Paris International Service in French 0637 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] In Tunisia the spokesman of the Islamic movement al-Nahdah was released yesterday. He had been held by the police for some 20 hours. The Tunisian authorities have announced that he will be the subject of legal proceedings, but they have not set a date for his appearance before an examining magistrate. In any event, Ali Laaridh is accused of slander, publishing false information, and incitement to violence.

Kuwait

Further on Oil, Territory Dispute With Iraq

Al Sabah Rejects 'Threats, Extortion'

JN2707095690 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 3

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received in his office in Bayan Palace at 0900 yesterday heads of the Kuwaiti public welfare societies. They stressed to his highness on behalf of themselves and the boards and members of all social and professional societies that the Kuwaiti people stand united behind the leadership of the country and fully support all steps it takes to protect the country's sovereignty and security. [passage omitted]

The heir apparent and prime minister delivered the following speech:

I thank you for the kind speech you delivered in your name and on behalf of your brothers, heads of the public welfare societies. The speech highlights your faithfulness and loyalty to the homeland. I am pleased to thank you all for this noble position, and for your swift action reflected in your clear and frank statement and in your visit yesterday to the leader of our march, his highness the amir. [passage omitted]

Brothers, I feel very pleased and satisfied with this meeting. With your rally here, you have proved to the whole world that the sons of Kuwait, in good as well as in bad times, are people of principle and integrity, and that by no means will they yield to threats and extortion. We believe in cooperation and understanding with brothers in all fields, and in collective work for the sake of our dear homeland in the present and the future. [passage omitted]

Amir Gets Mubarak Message

LD2607144190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait 26 July KUNA—The Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, concerning the latest developments of Arab efforts regarding the situation in the region.

The message was conveyed by the Egyptian president's envoy, Dr Usamah al-Baz, during [words indistinct] and the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait.

Minister Requests 'Fair' Quota

PM2607122190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Jul 90 pp 20-21

[Interview with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr Rashid Salim al-'Umayri by 'Urubah Barakat in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Barakat] Do you intend to follow the same investment policy for the Kuwaiti Petroleum Establishment as your predecessor Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah?

[Al-'Umayri] There can be no doubt that Kuwait's oil policy is a consistent policy that does not change with the change of the oil minister. Changing or amending it is something that falls within the very essence of the state's general policy, and such a decision could only be made by the highest authority, including the cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council. [passage omitted]

Kuwait's oil policy over the past 12 years has been successful, making many internal and external achievements. Since the foundation of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Establishment in 1980 there has been major development and growth in the Kuwaiti oil sector, reflecting the activities and effectiveness of the oil companies attached to the establishment and resulting in the emergence of oil companies more specialized toward completion of the oil sector's infrastructure.

God willing, I will endeavor to pursue the same policy and expand oil investments in Kuwait and abroad. [passage omitted]

[Barakat] Did Kuwait really have to buy oil from other countries to meet the operational requirements of its refineries in Europe?

[Al-'Umayri] Yes, because of Kuwait's adherence to its production quota decided by OPEC, it is sometimes forced to turn to other states to purchase oil from them when there is a shortage of crude needed for its refineries in Europe. We have more than once purchased oil from Egypt, Algeria, and, I believe, Nigeria. When we get a chance to purchase oil from other sources we do not hesitate to do so, if our European refineries needed more crude. Our refineries often suffer because of our unwillingness to exceed our decided quota in order to supply all the refineries with Kuwaiti oil. [passage omitted]

[Barakat] There are two trends in OPEC regarding the question of arriving at the right oil price per barrel. One wants the base price to reach $25 and the other wants to keep it at $18. Which one does Kuwait support?

[Al-'Umayri] If we want to address the question logically, then the oil price per barrel should be reasonable. We know from past experience that $18 is a reasonable price. As everyone knows, at present we have a problem reaching that price. That is why I believe that the call for a base price exceeding $18 is unsuitable in the current world oil market circumstances. We must wait until the market recovers, until there is some equilibrium between supply and demand, and until the OPEC official price is maintained for a long time before we can talk about amending the base rate upward.

[Barakat] Kuwait is requesting a higher quota than that set for it by OPEC. It wants a share of about 12 percent of OPEC production total, that is about 3 million barrels a day. On what basis was that percentage calculated?

[Al-'Umayri] Kuwait's current quota as decided by OPEC is 1.5 million barrels per day, which is about 6.8 percent of OPEC's official production ceiling. In the beginning Kuwait accepted that quota as part of the sacrifices it was making to restore oil market stability and as a contribution to remedy the difficult circumstances of certain member states. However, the fact that these states did not abide by the OPEC quotas and urged Kuwait to continue to make sacrifices without themselves contributing to oil market stability has prompted us to call for a reconsideration of our quota on the basis of a fair calculation of Kuwait's share in accordance with Kuwait's historic production, oil production capacity, and oil reserves, which are estimated at 100 billion barrels. If all these criteria were used in calculating a fair production quota for Kuwait, that quota would be 10 to 12 percent of OPEC's overall production. We are not saying that we want such a quota now, but we are saying that our current quota is much less that the fair quota. When the oil market recovers and prices improve and stabilize, then our demands must be taken into consideration and OPEC quotas redistributed on a just and logical basis so that Kuwait can have a fair production quota. [passage omitted]

Paper Lauds Developments

JN2607170490 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "A Step on the Right Course"]

[Text] We have said and we are still saying that resolving Arab problems cannot take place without the Arabs, their solidarity, and unity.

The encouraging statements on settling differences between Iraq and Kuwait made by President Husni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday, and the Iraqi decision to stop the media campaign as of today, are all a direct result of every Arab's desire to resolve their problems by themselves, and a proof that Arab solidarity will continue to be a common concern among brothers.

These developments prevented the region from entering a new dark tunnel like nation has experienced in the past, and which disturbed its relations and diverted it from confronting its direct enemy, which derives its strength from the Arab's weakness, its unity from their fragmentation, and its victories from their defeats, which they make by their own hands. These developments removed foreign interference from our region, and made us deal with the crisis in a rational spirit without nervousness and reactions.

The enemies of our region are undoubtedly saddened by these positive developments, because they prevent them from achieving their ambitions in our land and resources. Moreover, every sincere Arab, particularly in the two fraternal Arab countries, Iraq and Kuwait, is delighted by these developments.

It is an encouraging beginning worthy of the efforts exerted for its sake. It is the beginning of putting Arab steps on the right course to resolve problems in the spirit of pan-Arab solidarity. It is undoubtedly a small step on the road to settling all differences with a fraternal Arab spirit and through the language of reason, which is the only useful language in this age.

We hope that the spirit of higher pan-Arab interests will be given priority over all other considerations, and that the Gulf and Arab regions will fulfill their dream for development and progress without conflicts and convulsions so as to put all Arab resources at the disposal of all Arabs.

Paper Cites Disappointments

JN2607171390 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Jul 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Two Countries Remaining Forever"]

[Text] With every passing day, the failure to find a solution to the continuing crisis between Iraq and Kuwait exacerbates our feelings of sorrow and disappointment. This is because we never thought in our wildest dreams that such a crisis might develop between the two fraternal countries.

However, we still believe that the bonds of fraternity are stronger and firmer and that these bonds will eventually be the norm, whereas other developments will remain the exception. One more thing, Kuwait and Iraq are here to stay forever. Nobody can change God's creation and geographical facts in this world. Geographic proximity is something over which we have no control.

Furthermore, one can in no way manage without the help of brothers. When one is pained, he simultaneously utters a word seeking the help of brothers. This acquires an exceptional, added significance when the brother is a neighbor and will continue to be so until the end of life on earth.

That is why our wound was deeply felt and very painful when the crisis was initiated by Iraq. We never expected such a thing, even if there were differences. How then were we expected to react when these differences did not warrant the course of action taken by Baghdad?

What is regrettable and excruciatingly painful is to see Arab brothers in general stand as spectators watching the problem develop. Even when they took action, it was only out of a desire to spare themselves any blame. We believe that Arab moves in this regard must be more vigorous and sincere. Moreover, they must reflect an awareness of the ordeal and danger. For when such moves are made, the disputing brothers would feel that any worsening of the situation is unacceptable, not only because it would directly harm Kuwait and Iraq, but also because it would inflict grave harm and damage on the pan-Arab position and also on higher Arab interests, not to mention the damage that would be caused to the Arab

reputation. Similarly, Arab influence on the international scene would also suffer from such a worsening of the situation.

Right now, we can all see, through the actions and reactions of some international parties, how some forces lying in wait for the Arabs are watching Arab moves so that they can fish in troubled waters. It is certain that the catch will only be Arab and that the Arabs will pay for this from their funds and living flesh.

The Palestinian newspaper AL-SHA'B, which is based in occupied Jerusalem, described this dispute as "a stab in the back." This epithet reflects the severity of the shock felt by the Palestinian people, who have continued to demonstrate patience and steadfastness while receiving the bayonets and bullets of Israeli invaders.

As a matter of fact, any inter-Arab dispute is a gain for Israel and its supporters and also for the arms brokers and dealers in their continuous war against the Arabs and the Palestinian people.

That is why we think that Arab moves to heal the rift between Kuwait and Iraq must be strong, active, and continuous to extinguish the fire and prevent a conflagration. These moves must seek to put out the fire if there remains any fire beneath the ashes.

While saying this, we do not seek to belittle or underestimate the value and importance of the moves being made by fraternal Egypt, fraternal Saudi Arabia, and the Arab League secretary general. We strongly hope that these moves will attain the desired objective. We are waiting for this to happen so that we can say to those lying in wait for us: Your dreams will never come true.

Paper Cautions Media

JN2607172890 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Jul 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "We Hope To See A Happy Ending"]

[Text] The present situation between us, the brothers in Kuwait and Iraq, is incomprehensible according to logic and is a case that should be classified under irrational phenomena. For, the record of history is about to leave our area so as not to be obliged to give false testimony about a crisis in which the sword is about to sever the links of two inseparable entities. If it is unacceptable for estrangement to separate us, then, by the same token, it is not difficult for us to provide a cure for the body before it collapses under the onslaught of the disease.

If the cure of last resort is cauterization, the first cure, then, lies in understanding the realities of the crisis and providing healthy conditions so that specialists can diagnose the disease and amputate the impaired part.

The first fact that should be understood concerns historical, geographical, and future aspects. All of these attest that Kuwait's natural position is beside Iraq, and Iraq's is beside Kuwait; that Kuwait's natural place is in the heart of Iraq, and Iraq's is in the heart of Kuwait; and that the natural shelter of Kuwait is the Iraqi bastion, and Iraq's is in the Kuwaiti fortress, exactly like the place of the two fingers in the one hand, or the ventricle and the auricle inside the one heart.

The second fact of which the leaders of the two countries should be aware is the world changes, which mandate the inevitability of Arab solidarity and call for eliminating differences and embracing cooperation in order to serve the public pan-Arab weal.

The third fact is that Kuwait has never brushed aside its pan-Arab duties, nor departed from pan-Arab unanimity, or attempted to monopolize a certain interest at the expense of others. In fact, Kuwait's sacrifices and concessions for maintaining the unity of Arab ranks intact and strong and serving the public interest are crystal-clear in contemporary Arab history. We have not done so to brag about it, but merely to satisfy the pan-Arab conscience.

The fourth fact is that when national sovereignty is at stake, Kuwaiti men, women, youth, and elderly—in line with Kuwait's pan-Arab perspective—will stand by the Kuwaiti leadership in one rank and voice a single opinion that does not admit of interpretation or disagreement.

The fifth fact is the awareness that Iraq has fought a costly pan-Arab war in defense of the eastern gate of the Arab nation. During this eight-year war, Iraq sacrificed what is both cheap and dear; foremost of what it gave was the pure Iraqi blood that was spilled over the eastern borders of the Arab nation in defense of the existence and dignity of an entire nation, not to mention the damage that was inflicted on its economy and resources and the daily bread of its sons.

The sixth fact is that those who harbor premeditated intentions are today applauding with joy and fanning the fire to make it glow, because their interests can only be achieved at the expense of other peoples' catastrophes, and when destruction and ruin are everywhere.

If we take the aforementioned facts into consideration, it will be easier to find a solution that respects the rights of the two parties and satisfies their interests. This solution will ultimately serve the great Arab family.

For creating the appropriate circumstances, however, positive thinking is a prerequisite. Because, the language of reason, emotions, and mutual interests, will close the doors to those who are attempting to fish in troubled waters. Therefore, all pens and various mass media should refrain from delving into political, economic, geographic, and historical details, because the negotiating table is the place where all these details belong. At this table, seasoned, trustworthy leaders and decision-makers will sit together, not to engage in a battle of negotiations in which each party tries to "exact" the biggest gains, but rather to reach an understanding on a

formula through which each party shows concern for the other's interests and rights as much as it is concerned with its own.

If these pens and media must engage in such issues, then duty dictates that they live up to the pan-Arab conscience, and renounce vituperative and slanderous language. They should also always keep in mind that they are talking about a past and future brother and partner. Therefore, there is no need now to mar or distort this fact, because harmful words might provoke a lasting resentment in men's hearts.

The Arab family can, in this suitable climate, intervene to mediate between two of its members and end the problem without preconditions, restrictions, or previous thoughts.

We admit that the pan-Arab burden Iraq has borne exceeds what Iraq can take; but it is also more than Kuwait can take. The Arab family, therefore, is asked to cooperate jointly in the duty of shouldering responsibility; Kuwait is also prepared to contribute to this pan-Arab endeavor.

The uncontested truth, spelled out by the amir of Kuwait, says that resolving this brotherly falling-out is not difficult if serious intentions and desires exist to end the dispute through dialogue and brotherly understanding.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent has affirmed to us that our leaders are still exerting immense efforts to deal with the issue prudently and patiently. He also voiced optimism over the brothers' ability to devise a formula to normalize relations between Kuwait and Iraq, and to regard what took place as a cloud that will soon fade away.

Let us adopt a spirit of brotherliness and love under the arch of Arab arbitration. We accept the arbitration of a brother between two brothers. This must be in the interest of the two brothers and the Arabs as a whole.

PRC Envoy Discusses Relations, Arms Policy

LD2607125390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1157 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 26 (KUNA)—The close viewpoints between Saudi Arabia and China and the awareness by both of the necessity to establish ties had hastened the decision to exchange diplomatic relations, announced July 21, China's first ambassador to the Kingdom said in press statements published here Thursday.

Ambassador-Designate Sun Bi Gan [name as received], who will shortly present his credentials to the Saudi authorities, described the event of establishing relations between his country and Saudi Arabia as one of positive reflections on the regional and world levels. He told AL-SIYASAH newspaper that the first step towards establishing ties with Riyadh was the opening of trade representation offices in both Riyadh and Beijing back in 1988.

The envoy indicated that relations between the two sides, given the weight they represent at regional and world levels as well as their distinguished position would positively reflect upon maintenance of world peace and opening of vast horizons for multi-sided cooperation.

Asked on prospects of military cooperation between the two after establishment of diplomatic ties, Ambassador Sun said, 'China pursues a clear policy in armament exports. We are confident that weapons purchased by the (Saudi) Kingdom will be used in the first place for self defence.'

'Eventually,' the envoy added, 'military cooperation in the field of arms sales to Saudi Arabia accords with China's policy which also calls for non-interference in the internal affairs of arms-importing countries.' He indicated that military cooperation between the two sides is open-ended out 'of our utter confidence in the kingdom's use of these weapons.'

The ambassador-designate welcomed that Chinese students receive studies in Saudi universities as one aspect of establishing amicable relations between the two sides.

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Welcomes Upgrading of Ties With China

PM2607121390 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Relations of Trust Between Kingdom and China"]

[Text] We do not believe that there is anything exciting or clamorous about the mutual recognition between the Kingdom and the PRC or about raising representation between them to ambassador level. Especially when we consider that China has a notable international status and is moving toward becoming as influential and strong as the superpowers, which influence international decisions.

China has moved toward Muslims and allowed them to perform their rites without any pressure or ideological rigidity, and it maintains distinctive stances toward the Arabs and their causes and gives precedence to its interests over its ideological requirements. Based on this, the Kingdom was prompted to regard these practices as a realistic factor for establishing these relations between the two countries with a view to placing them in their sound and positive context.

With regard to China, which represents international political and economic weight, its relations with the Arab nation are not accidental or new. Because the two nations' cultural history testifies that there is a common heritage binding them and that China's present, which has been characterized by independent decisions and by not engaging in the game of nations, has based the harmony between Arab and Chinese positions on the principles of trust—which, in turn, has given special importance to the two nations' role at the international level and in the long term.

And while the Kingdom is an Islamic and economic power, it has continued to pursue its fixed principles toward those with whom it maintains relations and friendships in isolation from one-upmanship or side alliances—a behavior which has spared it the critical situations of politics and heated contests among the forces warring diplomatically and economically. Perhaps its step toward China is just to do with principles.

Economic ties between the two countries are growing. Because China is regarded as one of the biggest international markets, over which many states are competing, this makes these relations special to the Kingdom. The two countries' need for one another will be beneficial, in terms of industrial and agricultural products as well as the other joint businesses over which government and private sectors cooperate. Besides, the two countries have long experience—an important asset which can be exchanged and employed in the economic and development fields.

The Asian states, linked by similar geography, unchangeable traditions, and an intermingled historic heritage, tend to have natural and uncomplicated relations. Perhaps we do not forget how China, with its historic weight and great future, will add further cultural achievements for this continent. At the same time the Kingdom, which has never ceased cooperation with it, realizes the benefit of favoring and boosting this position so as to serve the two countries and the interests of the peace- and stability-loving states.

UAE

Ambassador Walker Meets With Bin-Zayid

JN2607184290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy of the supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, met here today with Edward Walker, U.S. ambassador to the UAE.

WAM has said that during the meeting the U.S. ambassador explained in detail to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah his country's viewpoint regarding developments in the region. They also discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Salih Receives Saddam Message, Gives Reply

JN2607124890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at his office today brother Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, interior minister of the fraternal Republic of Iraq. The interior minister conveyed a message to the brother president from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, dealing with bilateral relations and developments in the Arab arena.

The brother president gave the interior minister a message in reply to his brother President Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by brother Colonel Ghalib al-Qimsh, minister of interior and security, and brother 'Abd Husayn al-Rifa'i, Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Ibrahim To Lead Delegation to Kuwaiti Talks

JN2607180190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1746 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—INA has learned that the delegation representing Iraq at the talks to be held between Iraq and Kuwait will be led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

Spokesman Reacts to Kuwaiti Comments on 'Threats'

JN2707090090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0827 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—With reference to the Kuwaiti prime minister's recent statements in which he said he "rejects threats and extortion," an official spokesman has stated the following: Iraq has not resorted to the language of threats and extortion. Rather, it demands its legitimate rights and clearly refers to the harm and aggression it was subjected to.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq has accepted a meeting between the Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman and the Kuwaiti prime minister out of appreciation for the brotherly efforts made by Arab kings and presidents, particularly His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who has paid a visit to Baghdad.

The spokesman said: It is important for the Kuwaiti prime minister to know that whoever comes to meet with us must be prepared to remove the harm and aggression which Iraq was subjected to and respond to Iraq's legitimate rights.

The spokesman said that, according to the agreement reached through President Mubarak, the meeting scheduled to take place in Jeddah between the RCC vice chairman and the Kuwaiti prime minister is a preliminary, ceremonial meeting which will be followed by a meeting between them in Baghdad to continue the talks.

'Iraqi Source' Denies Troop Concentrations

JN2607143690 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Answering a question asked by AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI about [Iraqi] troop concentrations in the al-Basrah and al-Zubayr areas, an Iraqi source has said that "Iraq is still at war with Iran, and what foreign news media have termed troop concentrations in the region are merely routine movements by the VII Army Corps, whose headquarters has been located in Umm Qasr since the outbreak of the Gulf war."

Saddam Meets With Egyptian President's Envoy

JN2607110990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today received Mr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's envoy, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and director of the president's office for political affairs. Mr. al-Baz conveyed to the president leader an oral message from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the fraternal relations between the two countries, the Arab situation, and the latest developments in the Arab region.

Saddam Envoy Delivers Letter to Somali President

JN2607202790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud has handed a letter from the leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on relations between the two sisterly states and regional developments. The letter was delivered when the Somali president received the envoy of his excellency the president in Mogadishu today.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud arrived in Mogadishu earlier today.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Yasir 'Arafat 26 Jul

JN2607194490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today.

During the meeting they discussed the situation in the Arab region in light of the latest developments. They also discussed developments on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's intifadah against the Zionist occupation troops, in addition to several issues of common interest.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Hamdun Cited on U.S. Ties, External Affairs

JN2507134390 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Nizar Hamdun said there was a positive progress in the Iranian position represented by Iran's acceptance of direct meeting and negotiations.

In a statement with the Baghdad ALIF BA' weekly magazine on Iraq's external policy, Mr Hamdun said he hoped that in accordance with this progress to realize the aspired for meetings leading to lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

On the capital proposed for holding the forthcoming summit between Iraq and Iran, the Iraqi foreign undersecretary said that this question was still being discussed by top level authorities in both Iraq and Iran adding that

importance of such summit was focused on a common understanding for peace between the two countries.

The Iraqi foreign undersecretary said that holy Mecca was one of the proposed capitals for hosting the Iraqi-Iranian summit because of religious and sacred considerations for the entire Moslems in the world.

He added that balanced and comprehensive peace between the two countries would have positive impact and create more economic and political stability for all countries in the region.

On future relations with the United States and the continued anti-Iraq hostile campaign due to the influence of the Zionist lobby, Mr Hamdun said that future relations with America is a future with open ends from our point of view and this means that all probabilities are existing, the probability of further deterioration for known considerations and the probability of their improvement.

He further pointed out that having Iraq and the Arabs strong not only in the military aspect but also in the economic and political aspects will grant the Arabs respect among several quarters in the world including the American ones.

He added that relations with the United States could improve if the U.S. Administration adopts balanced tendencies toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and other issues concerning our region like regional security and questions related to energy and transfer of technology.

On the U.S. backing of the Zionist escalation in the region, Mr. Hamdun said the United States has interest in having an Israeli hegemony over the region and to have the Arabs surrender for this hegemony.

On dimensions of the relationship with the Soviet Union in the light of its internal and international changes, the Iraqi foreign undersecretary said that the Soviet Union is historically known as a friend for Iraq and a large number of Arab countries and that the Soviet Union is witnessing internal changes which is a purely Soviet affair.

He added that the Soviet Union due to its internal problems and other international problems has withdrawn from the political arena in several parts of the world which indicates the probability that the Soviets would have less concern in regional issues.

The Iraqi foreign undersecretary stressed that Iraq's external policy was drawn up in accordance with the principle of full independence and mutual interest and for serving the interests of Iraqis and the Arabs.

He expressed hope that the Soviet Union would continue during the forthcoming stage in supporting Arab issues in the International fora especially the Palestine issue and right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

On the question of holding a meeting for oil and foreign ministers Mr. Hamdun said that the meeting would be dedicated for discussing Arab economic and external policies to achieve Arab security as a comprehensive and balanced concept for boosting Arab strength.

On the Turkish attitude in oposing the idea of defining just shares of the Euphrates waters, the Iraqi foreign undersecretary said the Turkish Government does not believe in defining firm shares but believes in formula serving the Turkish needs at the expense of the Iraqi and Syrian needs.

He said that we understand that Turkey has needs in the Euphrates waters and that it should at the same time think of Iraq and Syria needs.

Planning Minister Discusses Economy, Growth

JN2407144790 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—Iraq's national income has risen to 17.2 billion Iraqi dinars [ID] 1989, scoring a growth rate of 15.7 per cent compared with figures of 1968, Minister of Planning Dr. Samal Majid Faraj on Monday told INA.

Dr. Faraj said that per capita income consequently increased to ID 991 from ID92 in 1968.

Dr Faraj added that Iraq witnessed during the years following the July 17, 1968 revolution a comprehensive development as many accomplishments were achieved in various economic and social fields.

Annual and five-year plans were adopted to achieve high levels for growth in the various fields of economy including industry, agriculture and public services.

The minister added that the development plans which were laid down and carried out during the last few years achieved much of their assigned aims.

President Saddam Husayn played an important role in enhancing planning and development process in Iraq, Dr. Faraj said. These plans have achieved good results in spite of the 8-year Gulf war imposed on Iraq.

The change in Iraq's economy during the period 1968-1989 was the outcome of oil nationalisation which led to liberating oil resources from the control of foreign companies.

Dr. Faraj emphasized that the economic and social development process had continued despite the war.

Gross national product rose from ID1.035 billion in 1968 to 19.749 billion dinars in 1989, at an annual growth rate of 15.1 per cent.

The minister added that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose to 1,133 dinars in 1989 from 117 dinars in 1968.

In agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector, production value rose from 201 million dinars in 1968 to 3,928 million dinars in 1989 registering an annual growth rate of 15.2 per cent.

The increase in production value in this sector is due to many factors, elaborated the minister.

These factors include the use of mechanism in agriculture, the increase in the amount of loans offered by the government to farmers, the extensive use of fertilizers and improved seeds besides pricing policy and the increasing demand for agricultural products.

In the field of crude oil production, its value rose from 345 million dinars in 1968 to 4,920 million dinars in 1989, scoring an annual growth rate of 13.5 per cent. Moreover the production value in the sector of transformational industries rose to 4,736 million dinars in 1989 while it was only 267 million Iraqi dinars in 1968, Dr. Faraj said.

In the fields of electricity, water, building and construction serices production value rose from 13 million dinars in 1968 to 458 million dinars in 1989 for electricity and water, and from 99 to 4,551 million dinars for building and construction during the same period.

The annual growth rate in the abovementioned two sectors was estimated at 18.5 and 20 per cent respectively.

The minister added that the production value in the field of transport and communications rose from 111 million dinars in 1968 to 2,196 million dinars in 1989 achieving an annual growth rate of 15.3 per cent.

Dr. Faraj said that Iraq's population rose to 17,428,260 in 1989 from 8,599,018 in 1968. The work-force reached 8,962,526 in 1989 compared by to 4,292,354 in 1968.

He stressed that the coming few years will witness the implementation of various development plans in all sectors, particularly in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

Aviation Official on Maintenance, Future Plans

JN2107120490 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 21, INA—Iraq is currently negotiating with a US company the possibility of setting up a firm for overall maintenance of big aircraft engines, Iraqi Airways Director-General Nur-al-Din Safi told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER here on Monday. [16 July]

Mr. al-Safi said that talks are under way with Pratt and Whitney, a well-known American firm and the world's leading manufacturer of aircraft engines.

Al-Safi said the company has a good record of manufacturing big engines for the Boeing 747 (Jumbo) jets and the Airbus family.

Mr. al-Safi added that the American firm is convinced of Iraq's ability to build and effectively run such a factory as it possesses highly qualified personnel and finance.

"Once completed", Mr. al-Safi said, "the factory would offer its services to other airline companies in the Arab region".

Furthermore, the factory would be of great help for the Iraqi Airways as it has already signed a 500-million-dollar deal to purchase five A-310 Airbuses to meet the ever-increasing flights to the Middle East and Europe, he said.

Al-Safi, himself an aircraft engineer, added that the Airbus delivery is expected to start as from 1992 and that the contract includes an article for training Iraqi personnel in France.

Iraqi Airways has made plans for buying a total of 15 Airbuses, and the current move is seen to serve various purposes. One reason, among many others, is the fact that the present fleet of the 727, 737 and 747 Boeings is wearing down and a new blood should be infused into this business to boost the industry and to help accommodate the increasing number of passengers flying Iraqi Airways. Each Airbus can carry between 200-320 passengers, Mr. al-Safi said.

Al-Safi added that Iraqi Airways is seriously considering the sale of some of its aging fleet and only keeping the 747 Jumbos owing to its large capacity trans-atlantic ability.

The 727 and 737 Boeings that are likely to remain in operation would be used for internal flights.

With joining the Airbus family, the Iraqi Airways has accepted an invitation from Kuwait to attend a regional meeting for Arab airline companies using Airbus aircraft. They are Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait, Mr. al-Safi said.

He stated that the aim of the meeting is to exchange expertise and achieve technical integration. Companies of the five countries will be specialised in repairing certain spare parts items.

This procedure would save a lot of money and would enable other airline companies to acquire an all-out specialised experience.

On how the Iraqi Airways will cope with the increasing number of people travelling abroad for tourism now that the ban on travel has been lifted, Mr. al-Safi said his company has chartered two Airbuses from a neighbouring Arab country for a period of two years to help transport about 750,000 passengers, "figure which exceeds the present capacity of our airliners".

The Iraqi Airways can fly three thousand passengers a day, 100 thousand a month and 300 thousand in high season which lasts for three months.

"It will be a wet-lease for one year, the aircraft and its crew, then a dry-lease for the second year, that is, the Iraqi crew will be responsible for running the planes afterwards", he said.

According to the lease, the Iraqi Airways will be able to absorb the increasing number of passengers, to train its staff on how to run, operate and maintain the aircraft since the two aircraft are similar to the ones Iraq is buying.

The first shipment of the Airbus aircraft is expected to reach on September 1, 1990 and the second on Novemebr 1, 1990. [passage omitted]

Shamir Discusses Trade Ties With Soviet Official

TA2707094390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister met today with the visiting president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The guest, Vladislav Malkevich, said that his country is interested in developing trade relations with Israel and noted the proposal to develop a passenger aircraft in association with the United States.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir replied that the project is not simple, but that he hoped all the difficulties would be overcome. The prime minister asked that his best wishes be conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev and expressed the hope for closer relations between the two countries. He said he was aware of the difficulties obstructing the path to the establishment of full diplomatic ties, but noted that in the meantime, progress can be made in the sphere of trade.

After the meeting, the guest told our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman that there is no reason why the scope of trade between the Soviet Union and Israel should not reach $1 billion within four years.

Our correspondent notes that two main projects are currently on the agenda: a passenger plane and the joint marketing of products, aided by Israel's special ties with the United States and the EEC.

Earlier Malkevich said there is a good chance that his country could supply Israel with raw diamonds in exchange for advanced equipment for diamond cutting.

Science Minister on Deterrence to Chemical Threat

TA2707060490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Report on remarks by Professor Yuval Ne'eman, energy and infrastructure, science and technology minister, by energy affairs correspondent Mor Suliman; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Suliman] Minister Yuval Ne'eman estimates that Saddam Husayn does not have nuclear weapons, and that since the Iraqi nuclear reactor was demolished, that country found itself farther away from developing a nuclear bomb. But Saddam has long- range missiles that can be equipped with chemical weapons. Does Israel have an answer to such missiles?

[Ne'eman] The question is what is meant by having an answer. There is no hermetic umbrella against missiles. The Patriot is far from a hermetic umbrella: It is an antiaircraft missile which is also capable of hitting certain types of slow missiles.

There is no doubt that as things look now, the Arrow, which Israel is developing, when completed will be perhaps the most advanced answer in the world; but that will take three, four, or five years. Although the Arrow will not be a foolproof umbrella, it will be sufficient as long as the Middle East does not become a nuclear arena. I mean, if we talk about gases, for instance, the downing of 95 percent of the enemy's missiles would be very good, because being hit by five percent is no different from a couple of bombs.

[Suliman] There are still no technical means for the creation of what the minister terms a hermetic umbrella against missiles, but in his opinion, the correct answer lies in deterrence, which is based on having chemical weapons similar to that possessed by the enemy.

[Ne'eman] In my opinion, we have an excellent answer: threatening the enemy with the same wares. Undoubtedly, the preparation of chemical weapons is no problem nowadays, and when confronted with such an enemy, it is necessary to prepare the appropriate answer. I have no doubt that even today we can provide an answer to such a threat.

[Suliman] The fuel market, according to the energy minister, is closely related to Israel's political trends. For instance, Israel is one of Egypt's major oil buyers; this fact contributes to both countries' desire to maintain an atmosphere of conciliation and friendship.

Professor Ne'eman hopes to buy fuel from the Soviet Union and other East European countries. He believes such purchasing contracts will tighten political ties, and will at the same time free Israel from its dependency on oil from Egypt, which is part of the Arab world. The minister refuses, however, to say whether Israel is already buying Soviet oil, or what contacts the two countries have held on this matter. [Elsewhere in the program, a report by Arye Golan states: "Arye Levi, director general of the Paz Fuel Company, says that in the past few months, representatives of his company have been holding contacts with official Soviet elements. He hopes these contacts will lead to the signing of contracts for the supply of Soviet fuel to Israel soon. The director general stresses that the contacts were held with the encouragement of the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry."]

Arab Democratic Party Endorses Political Platform

TA2707084890 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jul 90 p 2

[Report from Nazareth by Muhammad Khalilah]

[Text] The invitation of Foreign Minister David Levi to Egypt for a meeting with his counterpart and with President Mubarak, and the invitation later of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, depend on the outcome of Levi's meeting with Secretary of State Baker in the United States on 9 August. This was stated yesterday by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni in an address before the Arab Democratic Party convention in Yafa. He expressed the hope that the meeting would yield positive results so that we could pursue the peace process together and reach a just and lasting solution of the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

Basyuni claimed that Egypt's commitment to the Palestinian people stems from Arab and moral sentiments, and therefore firmly rejected the contention that Egyptian-PLO relations have suffered a crisis and that their dialogue has stopped in the wake of recent Egyptian press criticism of the organization's leaders.

This DAVAR correspondent reports that the Arab Democratic Party's convention, which ended yesterday, unanimously endorsed the party's political platform, whose principles are: recognizing the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and calling on the Israeli Government to conduct negotiations with the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat and recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to an independent state alongside Israel in the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Regarding internal Arab Israeli matters, the party emphasized that Israeli Arabs must unite ranks and form a single list for the next Knesset elections. That list will consist of the Arab Democratic Party, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Islamic movement. The party also called for all the Muslim waqf assets to be freed and handed over to elected Muslim committees in the Arab settlements to run.

Data Released on Murders of 'Collaborators'

TA2507125890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 90 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] From the beginning of the intifadah until now, 231 Palestinians have been killed and 821 wounded by other Palestinians who suspected them of cooperating with the Israeli authorities. Thirty Palestinian prisoners suspected of collaboration were killed in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prisons.

The data do not include a number of Palestinians killed during attacks and attempted attacks carried out by other Palestinians against IDF soldiers or settlers. Security elements expressed concern about the increase in the number of murders of Palestinians by other Palestinians. They said that at least 90 percent of those killed were not collaborators.

Yesterday it was learned that the prisoner who last week strangled to death three other detainees in the Qezi'ot lockup sat next to them for an hour and put out burning cigarettes on their bodies. A soldier who saw the bodies said: "They were shocking murders, after which the man suspected of perpetrating them mutilated the bodies in a shocking way." The prisoner admitted to killing the three, claiming that he suspected them of collaborating with the authorities.

Giv'ati Brigade Ends Exercise in South

TA2507142890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Today the Giv'ati Brigade completed an exercise held in southern Israel. The troops included the Armored Corps, Artillery, the Engineering Corps, and the Air Force.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the exercise tested diverse battle methods. The chief of general staff and other senior officers watched the exercise and praised the Giv'ati Brigade's operational ability.

Our correspondent notes that this is the first exercise held in Ze'elim since the training accident in which five soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded. The Ground Forces commander noted that the lessons learned from the accident were being implemented in the exercise, and the safety regulations were meticulously observed.

The chief artillery officer and the soldiers in the field also said that greater adherence to safety rules could be seen during the exercise.

Update on 22 Jul Events in Territories

TA2307120290

[Editorial Report] Writing on pages 1 and 8 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 July, Joel Greenberg and Matthew Seriphs report: "Masked youths kidnapped an Israeli Arab in the West Bank over the weekend and his whereabouts are still unknown, police and Palestinian sources said yesterday. The motive for the abduction was unclear."

"In Rafah, soldiers shot and wounded eight Palestinians in the legs, according to reports from al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said it had no reports of wounded in the Gaza Strip.

"The clashes were a continuation of the upsurge of violence over the weekend, following a few weeks of relative calm. Palestinians said that over 50 people were wounded in Rafah over the last three days, five of them seriously.

"Reports on yesterday's incident said troops in two jeeps entered Rafah camp before noon and were stoned by youths. The soldiers responded by firing plastic and rubber bullets, wounding four of them. Soon after, as youths left a local mosque, the stone-throwing continued and four more were shot in the leg.

"Palestinian sources in Gaza confirmed the figure of eight wounded and said a further three were treated for gunshot wounds at the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] clinic in Rafah."

THE POST carries several additional territories-related reports on page 8. Ron Kampeas reports that "there are no clear motives for yesterday's pre-dawn murder of a Silwan man, Jerusalem police and Palestinian sources both said yesterday. Police said Yasin Sakafi, 20, was set

upon by 12 masked youths at 2 a.m. near his home in Silwan and beaten severely. He died in an ambulance on his way to al-Maqasid Hospital." The report adds that "Sakafi is only the third East Jerusalem Palestinian to allegedly be killed for 'collaboration'."

The report adds: "A 70-year-old man was stabbed in the chest last night in Abu-Ghawsh, west of Jerusalem. He was in fair condition at Hadassah-'En Kerem University Hospital. Police said that the man had reportedly been suspected of cooperating with security authorities.

"A border policeman was injured in the hand yesterday evening when he was hit by a stone in David Street in the Old City. Preliminary hospital examination indicated that there was a fracture."

Another report by Ron Kampeas states that "the Jerusalem municipality has substantially reduced the water supply to the West Bank village of al-'Ayzariyah, a municipal spokeswoman confirmed yesterday.

"This is the second time this year that the city has cut by about 75 percent the water available to a Palestinian area. Last month, the municipality reduced the water supply to the Shu'fat refugee camp.

"In both cases, City Hall cited non-payment of water bills as the reason for the cut. "The bills in al-'Ayzariyah are running over NIS [new Israeli shekels] 500,000," the spokeswoman said.

"Al-Ayzariyah, though bordering Jerusalem, is in the West Bank. However, the Civil Administration stopped footing the water bill in 1989 and passed the responsibility on to Jerusalem. Shu'fat is in East Jerusalem.

"Al-Ayzariyah leaders have signed agreements to start paying for water at reduced prices, the spokeswoman said. City officials were not able to convince Shu'fat residents to start paying their bills."

Joshua Brilliant reports: "IDF troops yesterday forcibly evicted some 35 would-be settlers who had squatted in an old synagogue in Jericho to press the government to approve their plan to settle in the area."

"The Jericho Settlement Group have made several attempts to squat at the same site. Yesterday they locked themselves in the synagogue and surrounded themselves with barbed wire. The IDF declared the area a closed military zone, but they sat on the floor, locked arms, and resisted evacuation."

Subsequently, "some 20 men and two young women were taken to the Jericho police station, where complaints were filed against them. They were released on bail last night after Energy and Infrastructure, Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman sent his head of bureau, Avi Farhan, down to Jericho to pay the NIS 1,000 bail for each settler.

"Ne'eman also promised the Jericho Settlement Group that he would raise their demand to make their permanent home inside Jericho at a cabinet meeting in the very near future."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 23 July adds: "Security authorities recently uncovered a Fatah terror ring that was operating in the Bayt Hanun area in the northern Gaza Strip. Its members are suspected of firing at an Israeli Army patrol five months ago, throwing firebombs at Israeli vehicles, and attacking a person they suspected of aiding Israeli authorities. Security sources also say the gang members wrote anti-Israel slogans on walls and threatened laborers who worked in Israel. During the investigation, an M-16 assault rifle and a magazine filled with bullets were seized."]

Update on 25 Jul Incidents in Territories

TA2607085490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 90 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The bludgeoned body of an Israeli Arab kidnapped last weekend near the West Bank village of 'Attil was found in the area yesterday.

The body of Nizat Daka, which also bore burn marks, was discovered after several days of searches by his relatives, Arab villagers, and the security forces.

Daka, from the Triangle village of Yamma, had been abducted on Saturday night by four masked youths who stopped his car with a roadblock of stones as he drove to 'Attil with his wife to visit relatives. It was the first reported case of abduction of an Israeli Arab in the West Bank during the intifada.

Meanwhile, Palestinians reported that a West Bank girl working in the Triangle village of al-Tira had been kidnapped there by masked men three days ago. Iqbal Jamal, 18, from the village of 'Azzun, was seized as she walked from her sewing shop to a grocery store.

Two of the girl's cousins serve as armed bodyguards for Tahsin Mansur, head of the local pro-Israeli Village Leagues, and are considered "collaborators." According to some accounts, the kidnappers are demanding that the girl's cousins stop their work for Mansur. Other reports say the abduction is part of family feud. Police are investigating.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian stone-throwers in Khan Yunus wounded a soldier in the hand yesterday, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said. He was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for X-rays, but was later released. Another soldier was reported slightly wounded in clashes centred on the southern Gaza Strip town.

Local sources and the army said no Palestinians were wounded.

The military court in Gaza, under Col. Eli Zuckerman, sentenced a Rimal resident, Hamdi Khalil Shaykh Khalil, 43, to seven life terms and another 30 years on Tuesday, for his involvement in the recruitment and setting up of a cell in Gaza which killed "collaborators," and those suspected of involvement in drug dealing and prostitution, the army said.

Khalil used money obtained from Fatah to buy three revolvers that he distributed to the cell, which later attempted to kill seven people suspected of cooperating with Israel. Three were killed and four wounded. In 1989, Khalil widened his operation and set up the "Eagles of the Intifada," which gained a reputation for anti-collaborator activity in Gaza.

Palestinian sources said no local organization in Rafah had claimed responsibility for the killing of 'Isam Nawajha, who was taken from his home in the town's Shabura camp on Sunday evening. The man has been declared a "martyr" in the town. They added that the team sent to kill the man may have been Israeli.

A police spokesman said the motive for the killing was unclear, but that it was probably the result of an local internal conflict among Arabs.

The Islamic Jihad movement distributed a leaflet in Gaza last night warning members of the family of the three "collaborators" killed in Qezi'ot detention camp not to attack members of the family of Wahil Abu-Fanuna, who admitted that he was responsible for the murders.

This followed an attempted attack on members of the killer's family by one of the fathers of the dead prison inmates. The leaflet confirmed that the three victims were "collaborators" and also claimed eight had been killed in all.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 26 July adds that "one person was wounded yesterday by shots fired during IDF-initiated activities, Palestinian sources reported. The night before, the IDF conducted operations in the villages of 'Illa and Zayta north of Tulkarm."]

IDF Troop Concentration in South Lebanon Denied

TA2607183490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] According to reports from Arab sources, the IDF [Israel Defense Force] has concentrated a force of approximately 30 tanks and armored personnel carriers in the security zone, in the sector opposite the area in which the fighting between Amal and Hizballah is taking place, in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Our military affairs correspondent reports that Israeli sources have firmly denied these reports. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Gunrunning Case Not 'Political'

PM2607135390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 90 pp 1-4

[Zaki Shihab report: "Jordanian Information Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Political Dimensions for the Case of the Attempt To Smuggle Arms to Egypt"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Jordanian official has said that the group arrested while trying to smuggle rifles and various other arms to Egypt will stand trial in Jordan once the interrogations of its members are completed.

Contacted by telephone from London, Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the operation had no political dimensions and that the government is dealing with the case like any other smuggling operation whose perpetrators are arrested.

The Jordanian information minister indicated that the names of the group's members—three Egyptians and 12 Jordanians—would be announced later. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din did not specify when investigations will be completed. He pointed out that this case is no different from any other ordinary smuggling case.

Meanwhile, informed Jordanian sources have described the detainees as having no criminal records or political affiliations, emphasizing that the subject is not political in nature. [passage omitted]

New Coalition Pledges To Protect Democracy

JN2307074990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A new political grouping of mostly leftist and independent activists took birth Sunday with a call for a unified effort to protect and enhance the democratic process in Jordan and to work out a comprehensive reform policy to address the Kingdom's economic problems.

The formal launching of the Jordanian Nationalist Arab Democratic Coalition, (JNADC), which comprises several members of Parliament, political and union activists, was announced at a gathering at the Professional Associations Complex by the coalition's spokesman, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi.

"The coalition aims at protecting the democratic process by working towards political reform," al-'Abbadi, head of the Union of Professional Associations, told the gathering, which was attended by journalists.

This coalition is the first of its kind in the Kingdom since last November's free parliamentary elections, with 40 signatories representing four different parties and "leftist independents," according to one of the signatories who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The signatory told the Jordan Times that represented in the coalition are the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Jordanian Communist Party, and Jordanian Ba'athists, as well as Arab nationalist independents.

The coalition statement stipulates that the bloc is open to Jordanian group or individual participation as long as every member agrees with and work within the first draft charter that is expected to be developed further.

One of the basic elements of the charter is that all work together towards achieving the aims of the coalition, the signatory said. The charter stipulates that there must be a unified position by the bloc during parliamentary and union elections "or any other elections, away from competition. The candidates must be chosen according to their ability to work for the public interest, to serve the public, and they must have positive relations with the electorate."

Al-'Abbadi read the statement outlining the programme of the coalition to work towards protection and enhancement of the democratic process. He said the Defence Law of 1935 and its articles "must be cancelled and replaced with a modern defence law that will not conflict with the rights and duties of Jordanians as stipulated in part 2 of the Constitution."

The coalition also plans to work towards the cancellation of the 1967 martial law and the cancellation of the Elections Law of 1986, "and creating a new elections law that conforms with the Constitution and democracy."

The JNADC will work towards the cancellation of all laws that restrict freedoms, "such as freedom of equality among all Jordanians: personal freedoms and civil liberties; freedom of press and publication; establishment of political parties and unions; protection of the privacy of personal mail and telephone calls; and equal opportunity in public employment according to qualification."

Regarding economic reform, al-'Abbadi said the bloc would work towards an economic policy that aims at national prosperity and combatting unemployment through:

—Dropping the "school of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and getting rid of their grip on the economic policy because this school is responsible for the national debt,"

—Protecting and supporting the public sector to enhance productivity under the supervision of the Lower House of Parliament.

—Supporting the private sector in industry, agriculture and tourism and ending all bureaucratic obstacles to enhancing productivity in these fields; and

—Funding small industries and businesses in cities, towns and refugee camps by financial institutions within

a special law governing social and economic development under the supervision of the Central Bank of Jordan.

Al-Abbadi said that all those proven guilty of corruption must be brought to justice and "what was stolen must be returned to the national treasury within the boundaries of the law." He added that there must be an increase in measures to combat corruption, particularly from the Lower House, the judiciary and the press.

Al-'Abbadi described in detail the programme of the coalition concerning the national financial and economic policy, which included reviewing the government's economic reform programme, renegotiating with parties concerned with the national debt, reviewing financial legislation "which disregards different levels of income, "and selling public-sector utilities' products—such as water and electricity—at lower prices for low-income citizens.

The coalition, al-'Abbadi went on, also aims at working towards amending the social security law to include full medical insurance and social security compensation to the unemployed.

The JNADC plans to work towards Arab and national unity to confront Israeli threats, and calls on creating an "eastern front that includes Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)—and any other Arab country willing to join—to confront Israel and protect Arab security against Israel's Zionist expansionist policy and the Israeli-American alliance."

The coalition, al-'Abbadi said, rejects American-Israeli plans for the Middle East conflict, including the "Shamir-Baker plan because it is based on the Camp David agreement, as it does not recognise the rights of Palestinians, including the right of return and the right to set up an independent Palestinian state on its national soil."

The charter also stipulates support and protection of Jordan's national unity, Palestinian unity inside and outside Palestine with the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and support of the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation, particularly the uprising.

Al-'Abbadi added that the coalition was establishing contacts and relations with political parties in the Arab World to work together towards Arab unity and serving Arab interests.

"We aim to upgrade Arab culture, and hold on to the good morals emerging from the Arab and Islamic culture, will be open to other cultures," al-'Abbadi concluded. [sentence as published]

Among the bloc's members are eight Lower House of Parliament deputies: Faris al-Nabulsi (Amman), Husni al-Shayyab (Irbid), Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah (al-Karak), Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad (Amman), 'Isa Madanat (al-Karak), Dhib Marji (Irbid), Bassam Haddadin (al-Zarqa'), Fakhri Qa'war (Amman). All eight are members of the Democratic Alliance in Parliament.

The bloc includes three members of the Royal Commission entrusted with drafting Jordan's national charter. They are lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, poet and columnist 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar and Taysir al-Zibri, a political activist.

It also includes seven presidents of seven professional unions: Mamduh al-'Abbadi of the Jordan Medical Association, Ghalib Abu-'Urabi of the agricultural engineers, Walid 'Abd-al-Hadi of lawyers, Hashim Khuraysat of journalists, Taysir al-Himsi of pharmacists, 'Awni al-Sakit of contractors and Isma'il Barjus of engineers. It also groups four ex-presidents of associations: Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash, engineers; Hasan Khurays, doctors ; Nabih Mu'ammar, doctors; and 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, contractors.

Other members include Mahmud al-Ma'ayitah (pro-Syrian Ba'th party), Tahir al-'Udwan (Fateh), Salih Qallab (Fateh), Walid al-Ahmad (Fateh), Fa'iq Wwarrad (Communist), Muhammad Lu'ay al-Dabbagh, Hamdi Mattar (PFLP), George Haddadin, Mashhur Hadithah (reitred chief of staff) Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah (Popular Struggle Front), Mu'nis al-Razzaz (writer, independent), Salih Irshaydat (independent), Ya'qub Zayadin (communist party secretary general) Ahmad al-Najdawi (pro-Iraq Ba'th Party), Salih al-Fayis (independent), 'Azmi al-Khawaja (PFLP), Amal Nafla' (Communist), and Salih al-Nahhas (DFLP).

FRC Silent on Possible Release of Belgians

NC2707094090 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 27 (AFP)—A Palestinian extremist group refused to comment Friday [27 Jul] on an offer by Brussels to free one of its members in exchange for the liberation of four Belgian hostages.

Walid Khaled, spokesman here of Abu-Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), declined to make any statement on the issue when contacted by Agence France-Presse.

Further on Iqlim Al-Tuffah Fighting

Artillery Fire Exchanged

NC2607123890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] After a relative respite along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines this morning, the situation there has suffered another setback. The two warring parties have been trading artillery shells since shortly after 1300 today. A Hizballah source has stated that Amal members triggered a flare-up when they started a violent artillery bombardment from their positions in Tuffahta at 1320. The village of Jba' and its vicinity also came under fire at a rate of three shells per minute.

For his part, an Amal military source in the south stated that some Hizballah members tried to infiltrate Amal's positions in Jurnaya at dawn today after preparing for this attempt by a violent and concentrated artillery bombardment. However, they ran into the movement's advance ambushes. Fighting involving various types of weapons ensued and Amal fighters managed to foil the attempt. An Amal member was martyred during the confrontation.

In an updated casualty count, REUTER reported that 135 people have died and 250 have been wounded in the fighting. The International Committee of the Red Cross continues its contacts to reach a cease-fire in order to evacuate the dead and wounded.

In another development, a general strike was observed throughout the south today in response to a call by the Jabal 'Amil Ulema Grouping.

Checkpoints Alleged

NC2607170490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah remained explosive today. Following a period of calm in the morning, clashes resumed shortly after 1300 and are continuing. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile security sources in the South have reported that the Palestinian disengagement force has set up roadblocks on the road road between Dayr al-Zahrani and Zifta. The sources said that Lebanese Army units in the area have received orders to be on the alert.

Checkpoints Denied

NC2607184590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] A security source in the Amal Movement has denied reports by certain media on the Palestinian disengagement force's setting up checkpoints on the Dayr al-Zahrani road. He said that these reports are groundless and urged radios and news agencies to verify their reports before broadcasting them.

Fatah, Hizballah on Army Deployment

NC2607195090 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 26 (AFP)—The mainstream Fatah movement of the Palestine Liberation Organization on Thursday [26 Jul] welcomed a decision by the Lebanese government to deploy its forces in south Lebanon to separate rival Shiite factions.

But an official of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Shiite militia on Thursday [26 Jul] accused Fatah of exploiting its fight with the Syrian-backed Amal movement in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, where 86 people have been killed—combatants for the most part—and 280 others wounded.

"After the failure of compromise solutions and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Fatah needs a trump card in its regional negotiations and that card is south Lebanon," Abu-Yasir, a member of Hizballah's political bureau, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Beirut.

Fatah's senior official here, Zayd Wahbah, however said Lebanon's legal authorities should deploy in the area and agree on the Palestinians' political and military presence in south Lebanon.

It was the first such comment by a Fatah official on the proposed Lebanese Army deployment.

On Wednesday [25 Jul], the embattled government of President Ilyas al-Hirawi said it planned to deploy regular army forces in the inter-Shiite fighting but did not reveal when or how the movement of troops would take place.

Mr. Wahbah also voiced hope that the army would adopt "a positive attitude concerning us (Palestinians)" and take into account Fatah's military presence near Palestinian refugee camps, whose residents it protects.

The Sidon region is home to some 150,000 Palestinian refugees and is located about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Iqlim al-Tuffah region.

But Hizballah's Abu-Yasir rejected the Fatah buffer force "which has deployed at the express request of Amal."

"The Palestinians are taking part in the seige around us and are shelling our positions," he added.

He said Hizballah accepted the principle of a Lebanese army deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, but only in the context of a comprehensive political settlement of the dispute with Amal.

"We want to withdraw the south from the hegemony of Amal, which is preventing the struggle against Israel," Abu-Yasir said. "We want a national army which helps the resistance in fighting Israel."

Earlier, the warring Shiite factions clashed with heavy weapons around a strategic village east of here, security sources said.

The Amal and Hizballah troops ignored a cease-fire appeal by the Lebanese government Wednesday and pounded one another's positions near the town of Jarju', an Amal stronghold seized by fundamentalist Hizballah forces at the start of the fighting July 16.

The current confrontation, part of a two-year-old Amal-Hizballah struggle for control of Lebanon's Shiite community, has so far defied the intervention of some 500 Fatah guerrillas.

PLO Factions Support Measures

NC2607151790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] In a statement issued today, the PLO factions in Lebanon welcomed and expressed readiness to cooperate with the measures announced by the Lebanese Government. The measures call for ending the fighting, withdrawing the gunmen, and deploying a Lebanese Army force in Iqlim al-Tuffah. In the statement, the PLO factions emphasized their backing of any serious endeavors aimed at ending the fighting and turning a new leaf in the relations between the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalists. Stressing that they will not be dragged into the fighting, the statement added: We will not be party to the fighting, and we will maintain our contacts and coordination with the two warring parties as well as with all the national and Islamic forces.

In a related issue, the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah was the subject of a message that Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss sent today to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Residents' Flight Continues

NC2707074290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen remains extremely tense, amid reports of military reinforcements and reciprocal massing of troops on both sides.

Meanwhile, the exodus from that region continues. Press sources have said the Iqlim al-Tuffah region is almost empty except for the gunmen, and that the number of people who left the area exceeded 70,000.

Hizballah Source on South Situation

NC2707092390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Statement issued by a 'responsible source' in Hizballah; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Amal leadership has become so deviant that it did not hesitate to announce explicitly and with outright clarity that it would collaborate with the devil even if it were the Zionist enemy to slay the Islamic resistance and besiege the mujahidin who deserve all the credit for repulsing the Israeli invasion and the NATO armies in defense of the south, Lebanon's unity, Arabs' honor, and Islam's dignity.

The Amal Movement leadership has no concern but to maintain its influence over the residents of the south, to maintain its hegemony, and to perpetuate its partitionist canton and role in protecting Israel's security. The Amal Movement leadership is trying every way it can to conceal this destructive, hectoring, sectarian greed behind false slogans such as the defense of the Arabism of the south, the confrontation of what it falsely terms the Iranian invasion, and is blackmailing and pressuring the media to publicize its lies and to suggest to our oppressed and captive people in the south that the return of their honest resisting sons endangers them.

Amal leadership coordinates with the Zionists to strike at the mujahidin, calls 'Arafat's forces to support it, and seeks to recruit many mercenaries in its covert hostile war on Islam and Islamc resistance.

We have supported the [deployment of] national Lebanese Army in the entire south to take charge of security there, save our people from the lashes of Amal's executioners, preserve its security, secure its freedom, and back the resistance in pursuing the mission of liberating the land from the Zionist enemy and his agents. However, the dominating lust for power and hegemony prompts the Amal leadership to do away with the national army's role and new image, with a view to destroying the army's new image and role in liberating the land, driving out the occupation, and preserving the citizens' security.

The aim of this leadership is not to defend the Arabism of the south, nor to maintain Lebanon's unity. Its aim is to perpetuate its hegemony and domination and to strengthen its canton, which has turned into a true security belt for the Zionist enemy. This leadership exercises all forms of pressure to involve the Lebanese Army in serving this cheap sectarian goal.

If the Amal Movement is concerned about the Lebanese Army and its national role, let it declare its consent to introduce this army to the entire south to take over security there, within the context of a general and comprehensive accord among all the Islamic and nationalist resistaance forces.

We stress that the only way to solve the problem and to prevent its aggravation and complication is through a comprehensive political agreement between all the Islamic and nationalist forces on the one hand and the Amal Movement on the other, as well as through the entry of the Lebanese national army to the entire south to take over security there according to this agreement.

Amal Condemns 'Aggression'

NC2707073590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The Amal Movement Political Bureau held a meeting yesterday under Minister Nabih Birri to review the security and political developments in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the Iqlim and southern Lebanon.

The following statement was issued at the end of the meeting: The Amal Movement Political Bureau views the current aggression in Iqlim al-Tuffah by the Iranian Revolutionar Guards and Hizballah as an attempt to erase southern Lebanon's Arab character and to dismember and partition that area as a first step in the partition of Lebanon and the displacement of its people.

At a time when the region is witnessing the greatest wave of Jewish immigration since the establishment of the usurping entity, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Hizballah are displacing the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, and the Lebanese in general, burning the land, and destroying the villages. All this clearly serves the aims of Israeli expansionist plans and the establishment of a greater Israel.

The Amal Movement political bureau welcomes and supports the government's decision to deploy Lebanese army units in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The movement declares its unequivocal acceptance of this decision as the solution that will preserve Iqlim al-Tuffah and the south, return the people to their villages and homes, protect the area from annexation, and safeguard the resistance against the Israeli enemy.

Tyre Demonstration

NC2707062290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] A general strike was observed in southern Lebanon yesterday to denounce the current onslaught on Iqlim al-Tuffah. Thousands of people, arriving from the various southern areas and led by 40 religious leaders, staged a mammoth demonstration in Tyre.

Addressing the demonstrators, 'Allamah Sayyid 'Ali al-Amin declared that a cue must be taken from these tens of thousands of people and that the attacks on the south and its inhabitants must stop.

A delegation representing the demonstrators went to the UN logistics center in Tyre and handed a memorandum to the United Nations Interim Force command in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for delivery to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The memorandum expresses the support of the masses that have gathered in Tyre for UNIFIL and its role in southern Lebanon. It appeals to the UN secretary general to submit the issue of the Iranian invasion of southern Lebanon to the UN Security Council. It urges the UN Security Council to adopt the necessary measures to remove the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, assist the Lebanese state in establishing its authority over all Lebanese territory, and implement Security Council Resolution 425.

Sa'adah Returns From Damascus, Briefs al-Hirawi

NC2507200190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Minister Dr. George Sa'adah returned to Beirut from Damascus at 1930 today and immediately met with President Ilyas al- Hirawi. He briefed him on the results of his visit to the Syrian capital and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Minister Sa'adah later met separately with Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and Prime Minister Dr. SAlim al-Huss.

Statement on Al-Hirawi's Visit to Damascus

NC2707083490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Statement issued by the Presidential Office on President Ilyas al-Hirawi's 26 July visit to Damascus—read by announcer]

[Text] His excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited Damascus on 26 July and met with his excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' later joined the two presidents.

Discussion centered on the current situation in Lebanon, especially the government's initiative which has been supported by most Lebanese parties, the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and the decisions the government intends to adopt to establish security throughout Lebanon.

Viewpoints were identical. The Syrian president expressed full support for the Lebanese Government's efforts to impose state sovereignty, consolidate security, and achieve stability.

Ibrahimi Comments on Meetings With 'Awn

NC2607160790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] In a marathon race today, Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi resumed his contacts. He met for a second time with President Ilyas al-Hirawi after seeing him last night.

Ibrahimi met also with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and reviewed with him the current developments in light of the discussions which the Arab envoy held with General Michel 'Awn in the presence of the envoy's assistant, Muhammad al-Azrawal.

On emerging from his meeting with President al-Hirawi, the Arab envoy had a long discussion with the reporters. Ibrahimi said: I would like to clarify some points on the contacts we held in the past few days. These contacts began following the issuance of the Lebanese Government's 11 July statement which included a plan to restore accord and amity in all parts of Lebanon and to deal in particular with the crisis in the eastern areas and the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Ibrahimi added: I provided the required explanation, clarification, assurances, and guarantees regarding the contents of this plan. We basically said that this plan provides an important and great opportunity for the Lebanese people to emerge from the criticial stage they are experiencing and for the peace process to start again. This plan does not demand that anybody to give in to anybody but demands all to give to the homeland. Dr. Samir Ja'ja', Ibrahimi added, answered for the Lebanese Forces, and you have heard this reply. Dr. Ja'ja' and I held a second undeclared meeting. During this meeting, Dr. Samir Ja'ja' confirmed his acceptance of the [government's] statement and his readiness to start discussions with the Lebanese Government so that he might do what is required of him.

Lakhdar Ibrahimi continued: During three meetings with him, General Michel 'Awn asked each time that we resume our discussion during other meetings. He proposed that he postpone his reply until a fourth meeting is held. This meeting was held yesterday. We obtained his reply which we literally recorded. He went over what we wrote and approved it after introducing some amendments. Gen. 'Awn's reply reads as follows:

1. The al-Ta'if agreement stipulates that the document should be ratified by a national accord government. We, that is Gen. 'Awn, do not consider the present government to be a national unity government.

2. The al-Ta'if document says that the people are the source of power and the master of sovereignty which they practice through the constitutional institutions. Article Six provides for appointing deputies, a matter which contradicts the first principle. Another article provides for the separation of powers and for their cooperation and for establishing a balance among them. It appears from the powers granted to the president of the republic and the prime minister that there is no balance between these powers and the powers given to the Council of Ministers and the Chamber of Deputies.

Ibrahimi also said: Gen. 'Awn has proposed that either the constitutional amendments be reconsidered by an acceptable government of national unity or else the decision on these plans be shelved until a new Chamber of Deputies is elected provided that the new government of national unity works toward abolishing the militias as has been agreed. This is what Gen. 'Awn said, and we agreed that I convey what he said to the legitimate government and the Tripartite Arab committee. I have actually contacted the foreign ministers of the three member states and briefed them on the results of all the efforts I made. Today, I conveyed these results to His Excellency President al-Hirawi and His Excellency Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and I will convey the same to His Excellency Speaker al-Husayni this afternoon.

Ibrahimi went on: We reiterate that the statement issued by the government is an important and applicable statement. We understood from the officials in this country that they are resolved to implement this statement, and we are determined to support them and provide all that is required from us to enable the government carry out this plan.

Ibrahimi explained that the new steps will be implemented according to the solution timetable and that all these decisions will be submitted to all the Arab brothers, foremost being the Syrian Arab Republic, which participated with us in preparing for this stage and which will be with us in helping the Lebanese Government to implement this plan.

Ibrahimi also said: We are still optimistic about the peace process in Lebanon, and we hold to our faith that it is the duty of all Arab states to extend aid to this government and to the legitimacy which emanated from al-Ta'if. He continued: The western states must commit themselves along with us to intensify their efforts to help the legitimacy and enable the Lebanese people to overcome this crisis.

Regarding Gen. 'Awn's statement that he made no offers and the talk about guarantees which 'Awn is demanding from the Arab committee, Ibrahimi said: He has asked me for nothing specific which I did not give him. Regarding his assessment of the next stage, Ibrahimi said: It is regrettable that all potential is not provided for this stage so that it might come to pass easily. He added: The Tripartite Committee is committed to support the Lebanese legitimacy. There is a state and a legitimate government, and I reiterate this so that there to be no ambiguity: We fully recognize the government and the present president in this country, and we do not deal with any other party in Lebanon as if he represents anything. There is one legitimacy in this country. The contacts we held were in response to a government request and to signals given by various parties who say they are ready to join the legitimacy.

Al-Huss Comments on 'Awn's Rebellion

NC2707093590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Asked about former army commander General Michel 'Awn's stand on Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi's mission, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said the following:

We hold former army commander Michel 'Awn totally responsible for wasting another opportunity to save the Lebanese people from the hardships they are suffering and the dangers they are facing as a result of the continuing division, tension, and crisis.

This does not mean that the former army commander, in insisting on continuing his rebellion against the legitimate government, can stop the march of detente, peace, and construction. He might be able to obstruct or delay this march but he cannot stop it. This is because the future of Lebanon—homeland, society, and state—depends upon this march. The future of lebanon is too valuable to be tied to the whims of an individual.

We ask: With what right and authority, in what capacity, and with what law or constitution does this man allow himself to play with the destiny of a people and a homeland? Needless to say, we will not leave matters as they are. We will take all the necessary steps to protect the march of detente and peace and end the abnormal situation resulting from the continuation of the rebellion.

British Parliamentary Delegation Departs

NC2607141990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The British parliamentary delegation left Beirut for home at 1315 this afternoon after a four-day official visit to Lebanon. During the visit, the British parliamentarians met with Lebanese officials and were briefed on the current situation. Delegation Head Robert Adley stressed that unless the Lebanese people help themselves, nobody will be able to help them, noting that the issue is a domestic one.

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanese President 26 Jul

JN2707062090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Damascus yesterday on a working visit. He was received by President Hafiz al-Asad, who held a round of talks with him at the Presidential Palace. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

The two presidents discussed the Lebanese Government's statement concerning the execution of the Lebanese national reconciliation agreement, the various parties' positions, and future steps to implement it.

The president stressed Syria's support for any decision by the legitimate Lebanese authority to restore security and stability to Lebanon. The two presidents were in full agreement on the issues raised during the talks, which concerned various aspects of the situation in Lebanon.

Ba'th, Mali Parties Sign Cooperation Agreement

JN2507184490 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Assistant Secretary General of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ahmar received at his office today a delegation from the Republic of Mali led by the Secretary for Economic Affairs in the People's Democratic Union Party, Mr. (Dekenka Kabah Jaliki).

Present at the meeting, were member of the National Leadership Mr. George Saddiqni and the Ambassador of Mali in Damascus. The conversation covered relations between the two parties and ways of developing them.

The two sides also surveyed the developments in the Arab region and Africa and stressed the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

A cooperation agreement has been signed between the two parties for the coming periods. Mr. Saddiqni signed the agreement for the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party and Mr. Jaliki for the People's Democratic Union Party in Mali.

Mr. Jaliki was also received today along with his colleagues by the Foreign Minister Mr. Faruq al-Shar'.

Editorial Says U.S. Backs 'Zionist Star Wars'

JN2607132590 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does the U.S. Financing of a Zionist Star Wars Mean?"]

[Text] News reports from the U.S. capital have revealed that in a series of talks on strategic military cooperation between the United States and the enemy's entity, Zionist War Minister Arens, who is currently on an official visit to Washington, Arens has obtained the approval of his U.S. counterpart Dick Cheney to finance tests of the Arrow missile. Reports said, moreover, that the United States is interested in this Zionist project because it is directly related to the star wars program, which is to establish a missile defense in outer space.

The announcement of this agreement coincided with U.S. President Bush's statement on the need to maintain a large and strong U.S. deterrent force.

To start with, we say that this U.S. position—while typical—comes at a time when all people are working to prevent a new world war. If it has any implications at all, this position confirms that U.S.-Israeli policy is an indivisible whole and that all the U.S. Administration's statements about Mideast peace are mere bubbles that aim to carry on the deception the U.S. Administration has been practicing for years. As it is known, whoever seeks and works for peace should at least be impartial, although preferably he should side with the cause of justice and not with the aggressor. The United States is doing exactly the latter and disregarding what is going on in this world, thus defying the aspirations of all peoples who seek freedom and just, lasting peace.

The U.S. Administration's conduct toward our region in particular, by its incessant support of our Zionist enemy with all means and capabilities, should be regarded as direct aggression against the Arabs. In addition, Washington's hostile stance disqualifies it from being a party to the so-called peace process as long as it remains unchanged. We believe it will remain so unless it is faced by a serious, unified Arab stance that puts matters right. What is important here is that, by adopting such an Arab stand, others—particularly the United States—should feel that the Arabs are serious in their position and determined to regain their rights in full through using all the means available to them, which are undoubtedly diverse, important, and of great influence if used correctly and appropriately.

It is to be recalled that the Alexandria visit by leader al-Asad and his lengthy talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak focused on, in addition to diverse aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal states, the need to take practical measures to build an effective pan-Arab position capable of rising up to developments and establishing Arab rights in full.

U.S. 'Hates' Prospect of Inter-Arab Harmony

JN2407181490 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 Jul 90 p 2

["News analysis" by Jubarah al-Barghuthi]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's administration has again broached the issue of peace in the Middle East in an obscurantist manner for purposes which are known. This administration hopes to circumvent the state of awakening which is appearing over the Arab horizon.

While President Bush and his chief minister James Baker stressed that the United States will pursue peace efforts with further earnestness, the U.S. State Department stated frankly that the Middle East issue will not be on the agenda of topics for U.S. foreign policy for the remainder of this year. The Department said that Baker is thinking of resuming his unofficial activities next September after holding a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, David Levi, who is stalling by using his health condition as a justification to avoid any meeting with Baker before the plans of absorbing the Soviet Jewish immigrants have been drawn up.

The U.S. officials' deceptive and contradictory statements coincided with the big Arab event: the Alexandria summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak. According to recent Egyptian and U.S. press reports, the Egyptian president's letter to the U.S. President carried a clear warning to the United States against belittling events in the region in light of the Israeli Government's plans of settlements and aggression.

Because the United States is averse to criticizing or censuring Israel, it always resorts to deception and to circumventing events before they affect Israel adversely. However, it is now too late because U.S. intentions and aims have been exposed and the Arabs are perfectly convinced that Washington is flirting with Israel and making things hard for the Arabs.

The United States viewed the Alexandria summit as an event that would promote its policies. Syria has its clear and firm position and solid credibility as far as Arab rights are concerned. Therefore, the Alexandria summit did not ignore the U.S. game but probed it to reveal its details and affirm the need to confront it, something which the United States hates.

Judging by the tour of the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, it is now apparent that Washington's policy is to reduce arms supplies to the Egyptian Army under the pretext that the United States is paving the way for peace while in fact it is preparing the Israeli Army for war.

It is well known that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed Egypt that arms assistance to it and to Jordan will be greatly reduced or completely halted. This is a new attempt to concentrate pressure on the Arabs.

It is also well known that the report put out by the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, which has been regarded as the Bush administration's plan of action since 1988, laid special emphasis on the need to disturb Arab ranks and prevent Syria's stands from being adopted by other Arab states. Therefore, the U.S. State Department was pessimistic because of the Arab rapprochement policy.

The United States has its own reasons for hating a united Arab stand, even if this stand is only formal and in harmony with the apparently pro-peace position of the United States. The U.S. policy is not only a policy of obscurantism and stalling but an expression of a firm strategy which is opposed to peace in the region unless this peace serves Israel's aims. Therefore, the overt U.S. policy contradicts the real policy which U.S. diplomacy is trying to strengthen.

Regardless of the form the Arab response will take in terms of creating a new Arab reality, it will always be hated and rejected by Washington. Therefore, the Alexandria summit contradicted what the United States wants and endeavors to achieve.

While in fact an ordinary development, the Alexandria summit's convocation at a time when the U.S. obscurantist role has been revealed and everyone has become aware that Israel rejects peace and that the Arabs are called on to unify their efforts, makes it extraordinary and of special importance.

The complete frankness at the summit led the two sides to agree that the United States intends to make Israel a hegemonistic power that would impose its Zionist policy and strategy in any way it deems suitable.

However, the Alexandria summit's frankness had a role in exploring the threats of the U.S. policy, which backs the Zionist settlement policy. This frankness opened the door to a revision of Arab conditions, understanding the cause of Arab division, and searching for means of ending this division and replacing it with a large-scale pan-Arab awakening that cannot be undone by attempts of destruction and casting doubts.

Therefore, the United States will not tolerate the Alexandria summit or any other Arab meeting because the Americans are convinced that, even if they differ, the Arabs will unify their ranks and efforts to confront the Zionist threats.

Editorial Urges Arabs To Settle Differences

JN2607063590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria and the Constant Rise to Pan-Arab Duty," AL-BA'TH stresses in its editorial today that sideline differences and disputes in the past greatly harmed the pan-Arab cause, inflicted all sorts of evil and loss on the higher Arab interests, and gave gratuitous services to the enemies of the nation, especially its main enemy that lies in wait in occupied Palestine. The resurfacing of these differences in inter-Arab relations may develop them into contradictions, contentions, and opposing regional interests.

The paper explains that the return of these differences in the current Arab, regional, and international situation doubles the harm, exacerbates the danger, and threatens the Arab future and fate with dire consequences. AL-BA'TH adds: No one has realized this fact and called attention to it at a very early stage as Syria has and no one has repeatedly called for resolving sideline Arab differences and disputes through

dialogue as the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad has. Al-Asad repeated this when he received the Kuwaiti envoy, Dr. al-'Awadi, a few days ago. He called for Arab solidarity and common Arab action as a pressing need for the nation to safeguard its rights in the face of the major current and future challenges.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Thus when the leader makes the problems of the nation his preoccupation, the goals of the nation his end, and the interests of the nation his motive, then he cannot solve the nation's problems until he rises above sideline differences, narrow disputes, and secondary issues and sounds the alarm once again, calling on all the Arabs to watch the grave dangers surrounding them and to rise to the level where they can confront these dangers.

AL-BA'TH says that leader al-Asad's call for the need to rise to the pan-Arab responsibility to face the challenges through Arab solidarity and common Arab action acquires great importance. The paper concludes: Out of its unshakable pan-Arab belief Syria has sought sound and integrated Arab relations, sincere and genuine Arab solidarity, and effective and serious Arab action. Proceeding from this, it recently established its fraternal relations with sisterly Egypt. It is calling on its Arab brothers to realize the size of the evident and forthcoming threats, renounce secondary differences, and rise to the pan-Arab responsibility and duty. It reiterates that its hand is extended for coordination, cooperation, solidarity, and unity with all those who want to stand up to the new Zionist invasion and place themselves and their capabilities in service of the nation's main battle in Palestine, above which no other battle can ever rise.

Damascus Drinking Water Problem Analyzed

JN2607163090 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 Jul 90 p 4

["Spotlight" column]

[Text] Last Saturday the prime minister chaired a meeting to look into the problem of drinking water for Damascus. Also attending were representatives from the Ministry of Irrigation, the Barada basin, and departments in charge of potable water from 'Ayn al Fijah.

The meeting was held against the backdrop of a very dry winter which caused a shortage of water in the springs of Barada and 'Ayn al Fijah and a virtual disappearance of Barada water from Damascus—a rare occurrence that has resulted in supplies being cut off for as many as 13 hours a day from the entire city.

The meeting addressed a crisis of major proportions in a densely populated city—1,054 people per square kilometer—which is expanding unchecked in population, construction, and industry.

I believe that, had it not been for the squeeze, we would not have had to pump water from Barada to 'Ayn al Fijah. It would have been advisable to reserve Barada for irrigation, especially since the treatment of Damascus sewage has yet to be completed. As we all know, with the capital's meager rainfall, Damascus would be little more than desert instead of a fertile oasis without Barada. Barada feeds the capital's underground basin, whose wells supply it with enough water for 80,000 hectares of groves and fields.

The unpleasant fact is that, with the present rate of population growth, we are bound to consume all the waters of Barada. We know from last year's experience that Damascus' daily water requirement is 640,000 cubic meters, of which no more than 220,000 comes from 'Ayn al Fijah. Water is less abundant in Barada than in 'Ayn al Fijah and the two sources still fail to meet the needs for drinking water.

If we are stuck with remedial measures now, is this to say that drastic solutions are out of the question? The answer is no. There are solutions, costly and difficult as they may be. We need to build dams to trap surplus rain water in winter and to institute severe restrictions on the building and industrial sectors in Damascus. Furthermore, we need to build plants to treat salt water and then replenish Barada with the purified water. Finally, the general public will have to be discouraged from squandering this precious commodity.

Afghanistan

U.S. Senate Cut in Aid to Rebels 'Insufficient'

LD2607170690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] A spokesperson of the Republic of Afghanistan Foreign Ministry stated the following in connection with the decision by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on reducing assistance to the Afghan opposition:

Recently, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence decided to reduce covert military assistance to the Afghan opposition by one-third, from $300 million to $200 million. This action by the U.S. Senate manifests signs of understanding and realism in U.S. policy toward Afghanistan.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, while welcoming this decision by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, believes this step is insufficient. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that rendering the remaining $200 million from American pockets, as it has proved in past, will not bring any result but pain and suffering to the people of Afghanistan, further slaughter of people, and still more destruction to the already destroyed lands of the Afghan people.

The people of Afghanistan firmly demand that instead of spending this enormous sum of money on killing Afghans from both sides, it should be used to rebuild and reconstruct Afghanistan and help the refugees to resettle and restart a normal life in their country. We hope sound judgment and complete realism will finally prevail in U.S. policy toward Afghanistan.

Regime Forces Secure Release of Soviet POW

LD2707053790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] July 26, BAKHTAR—A Soviet Union's officer, Archiliy G. Gopadzi, who had become captive by the Afghan opposition in 1989 was released on July 18, 1990 owing to a military operation conducted by the Afghan Armed Forces in Baghlan Province.

The officer was handed over today by Khial Muhammad Katawazi, adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Amana Shewili Sluwa, member of the parliament of Gurjestan [as received] Republic of the Soviet Union during a ceremony held at the Store Palace of that ministry when Hajiyov Reza Qadmowich, [name as received] a member of the parliament of the Soviet Union and some members of the Soviet's embassy in Kabul were present.

The adviser of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs during this ceremony stated that the government of the RA [Afghanistan] will do its best for the release of the prisoners of war of the Soviet Union who are at the hand of Afghan opposition.

Reciprocally, member of parliament of USSR Gurj Republic, expressed his thanks to Najibullah, president of the RA, government and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan for their efforts in order to get the release of the Soviet's prisoners of war who are at the hand of Afghan opposition.

At the end, the said officer thanked the Armed Forces of the RA for their efforts to get him released.

Najibullah Honors Outgoing Polish Envoy

LD2607183490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this morning in his office at the Presidential Headquarters for a farewell meeting His Excellency Edward Poradko, ambassador and extraordinary plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Poland, whose term of service in the Republic of Afghanistan has ended. During this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah awarded his excellency the People's Friendship medal in recognition of his outstanding services in consolidating and expanding ties between the two countires.

In return, Edward Poradko presented to esteemed Najibullah gifts symbolic of the culture of the Polish people, which were accepted with thanks.

Reportage on Military Operations in Kabul Area

'Extremist' Missiles Kill Three

LD2307161190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] criminal extremists today fired 10 surface-to-surface missiles on the residential aras of Kabul city, and committed another crime. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that as a result, three of our compatriots were martyred and 11 others injured.

The missiles, which were fired from the west and the northeast of the city, landed on residential areas, also causing financial damage.

According to another report, units and companies of the General Command of Kabul garrison today carried out mopping-up operations in areas around Kabul. Sixteen extremists were crushed, 14 others injured, and the enemy's one BM-1 system was destroyed.

13 Missiles Kill Two 24 Jul

LD2407161190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Elements linked to extremist groups today fired 13 U.S. Sakr type missiles on residential areas in Kabul. The BIA military section reports that two of our compatriots were martyred and five were wounded. The missiles were fired from the west and northwest, and hit areas in Kabul's Wards 3, 5, and 10.

City Shelled During Indian Minister's Stay

BK2507142390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 25 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin guerrillas fired at least 42 rockets on Kabul during a three-day visit of an Indian minister which ended Tuesday [24 July], official said Wednesday. Six people were killed and dozens injured in the rocketting during Minister of State for External Affairs Harikishore Singh's stay in the Afghan capital, a government spokesman said. He gave no more details. The mujahidin attacks continued until Wednesday, other government officials and diplomats said.

Mr. Singh, who arrived here Sunday [22 July] to a shower of 17 mujahidin rockets, told reporters that President Najibullah had accepted an invitation to visit New Delhi within a month. India was seeking closer bilateral ties, including possible military cooperation, with war-torn Afghanistan, Mr. Singh said, after talks with Mr. Najibullah and senior Afghan officials.

Diplomats said the mujahidin probably stepped up rocketting of Kabul during the Indian minister's stay to impress on him that they were still active contrary to claims by Kabul. The intensified rocket attacks ended a three-week lull in guerrilla strikes on the capital.

64 Extremists 'Crushed'

LD1807191390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Units of Kabul Garrison Command mounted clearing up operations in the area of Kabul city last week to prevent extremist terrorist acts. As a result of the operation 64 extremists were crushed and tens of weapons and thousands of rounds of various types of ammunition were destroyed. Also during that period four enemy weapons convoys' were destroyed in the environs of Kabul.

Weapons Seized in Paghman District

LD2107174490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The units and subunits of the general command, Kabul Garrison, have carried out a mopping-up operation in the surroundings of Paghman District to prevent extremist terrorist actions. According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, during this operation 22 extremists, including a ringleader of this group, were crushed and another 12 were seriously injured.

The report adds that as a result of today's operation by the units and subunits, 28 SAKR-20 and SAKR-30 missiles, 35 recoilless gunshells, 28 boxes of ammunition for heavy machinegun, 70 rocket launchers, one [word indistinct] set, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets were seized by the Armed Forces. Furthermore, a weapons and ammunition depot were destroyed.

The organs of the Ministry of State Security carried out mopping-up operations today in the surroundings of Paghman District to preventing extremist terrorist actions.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of this operation, carried out with the cooperation of local people, 170 Mosael type surface-to-surface missiles and 35 artillery shells, deployed in Qol-e Baban region by the Sayyaf extremist group for launching at residential regions, were discovered and seized.

Rebels Fire Eight Missiles at City

LD2607170290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Firing eight U.S.-made [as heard] surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas today the extremists killed four Kabul city citizens and injured another 10 people. According to a report from BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section the injured were quickly transferred to hospitals for intensive care and treatment.

These missiles were SAKR-types which were provided for the extremists by the United States—this so-called defender of the human rights—to massacre and assassinate our compatriots.

The missiles fired today hit Wards 2, 5, and 6 and also caused material damage.

'Extremists' Killed in Nangarhar Operations

LD2307164190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province, enjoying high combat readiness and fighting morale, after carrying out a series of combat operations have been mainly involved in fortifying their positions in the last four days. An authoritative source in the Armed Forces reported to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section that armed extremists, including Pakistani militarists and Saudi mercenaries, fired long-range weapons on the security posts of the garrisons and residential areas in Samar Khel, Chaperhar and Sara Rud, and were faced with retaliatory Airforce and artillery attacks. As a result of the fire by the Armed Forces on the positions of the extremists, 82 extremist forces were put out of action. Their two arms and ammunition depots were destroyed. The extremists also fired heavy weapons on the garrison of Khowst major district from the directions of Tanay, Yaqubi, and Esmael Khel, as a result of which an Armed Forces' soldier was martyred and three others injured.

As a result of retaliatory attacks on the gathering places of the extremists by air and infantry forces, 66 warmongers were crushed, including Commander Mir Shah and two Saudi Wahhabis. Their one rocket projectile, a Dashk, and a recoilless gun, were destroyed.

The source adds that as a result of mopping-up operations by the units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar Province, which were carried out in the Torkotal region, three extremists were badly injured and five others slightly wounded. Their positions were destroyed. As a result of an ambush by the Armed Forces in the region of Takhta Pol, 15 rocket launcher shells and five reactive shells belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Mujahidin Reportedly Attack at Various Areas

BK2307144290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. Mujahidin attacked the security post in the (Zarzar) valley as well as (Qala Hasim), Chenar Pass, and (Pashaya) of Paghman Province, killing 17 militiamen and capturing eight. In an attack in the (Sarguza) area of Qandahar, the mujahidin also killed 13 soldiers.

Bangladesh

Joint Investors Forum Meeting With PRC Opens

BK2507132490 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bangladesh-China Investors Forum has begun discussions in Dhaka Tuesday [24 July] on the possibilities of joint venture industry. Inaugurating the forum, the industries secretary, A.K. Mosharraf Hussain, said Bangladesh has established an economic and political atmosphere for foreign investment with necessary legal protection, administrative reorganization, and simplification of procedure with attractive incentive packages.

The forum has so far signed two memorandum of understanding and three agreements. These relate to pisciculture production, production of mushroom, and free-folding umbrellas.

Border Conference With India Closes

BK2607160390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The two-day Indo-Bangladesh joint border conference ended in Rajshahi today. It discussed bilateral matters, including border crimes, smuggling, and border boundary pillars. Both sides agreed to intensify their watch in border areas to arrest crimes and smuggling.

India

Singh Returns From 'Satisfactory' USSR Visit

BK2607145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, returned to New Delhi a short while ago after a four-day visit to the Soviet Union. Mr. Singh accompanied by a high-level ministerial delegation had wide-ranging talks with the Soviet President, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, and others during his visit. Talking to newsmen at the airport in New Delhi, the prime minister described the visit as satisfactory.

The visit has been described as significant in a front-page dispatch in the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA. It said that Mr. Singh's visit is an act of continuity and trust which will give an impetus to bilateral relations and dynamism to the India-Soviet factor in world politics.

As reported earlier, the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, agreed to have a comprehensive economic treaty between the two countries. This would include new forms of cooperation in science and technology. Besides, they have also agreed to review the 1971 India-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. It is due to expire in August next year.

Comments on Strengthening Relations

BK2607163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister has described his four-day visit to the Soviet Union as very successful. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport on his return from Tashkent this evening. He said that the highlight of his visit was the personal rapport established between the top leadership of the National Front government and that of the Soviet Union. The prime minister said that a high-level nodal agency will be set up soon to further strengthen the India-Soviet relations in view of the changes taking place in the Soviet system. He pointed out that the agency will function within the scope of the India-Soviet joint commission. Besides political and official representation, it will include both the public and private sectors of the Indian economy. He said the agency will frequently interact with the Soviet authorities so that India can adequately respond to the changes in the Soviet Union.

The prime minister said India and the Soviet Union will sign a broad-based agreement on the economic front by the end of this year or the beginning of next year when the Soviet president, Mr. Gorbachev, visits New Delhi.

Asked if his government will emulate Mr. Gorbachev's perestroyka, Mr. Singh replied that the National Front is already on the path of democratization and decentralization.

About India-Pakistan relations, the prime minister clarified that the doors are never closed for talks with Islamabad, but New Delhi feels that any interaction will be fruitful only after Pakistan stops interfering in India's internal affairs.

When newsmen drew his attention to the possibility of a mid-term poll as suggested by some political parties, Mr. V.P. Singh said he would not question their wisdom. He added that the government is running smoothly and is faced with no problem.

Earlier, speaking to newsmen on board the aircraft, the prime minister asserted that his visit has dispelled the wrong impression created in a section of the press and in the minds of a section of the people about India-Soviet relations. Mr. Singh said his visit was the first after the National Front government came to power, and the visit was at a time when the Soviet Union is itself passing through momentous changes. Our special correspondent Devaprasad Das says that the discussions on political, trade, and economic spheres as well as on global issues have established the fact that India-Soviet friendship has stood the test of time and is a lasting one. The visit has set the framework for the future relationship with the Soviet Union. During his 45-minute chat with newsmen, the prime minister touched upon various issues discussed at Moscow with the Soviet leadership.

Before his departure from Tashkent, the prime minister visited Bukhara and Samarkand, the two historic cities.

Further on Election Remarks

BK2707020590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1714 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh Thursday appeared to rule out a snap general election. "It is not going to happen tomorrow," Mr. V.P. Singh said in a cryptic comment to reporters on his return from a visit to the Soviet Union.

His remark followed speculation about a snap poll following warnings sounded by two leading political parties, who have asked their cadres to prepare for early elections. India's main opposition party, former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I), and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) based their prediction on factional fighting dogging Mr. V.P. Singh's ruling Janata Dal (People's Party).

"Why should I question their wisdom," Mr. V.P. Singh said, but added: "It (a snap poll) is not happening immediately."

The government's stability has been put in doubt by bitter factional feuding between Mr. V.P. Singh and his deputy Devi Lal. Their differences triggered a major political crisis earlier this month when Mr. Devi Lal restored his controversial son Om Prakash Chauthala to the chief minister's post in northern Haryana state. Mr. Chauthala's return came just 51 days after he had been forced to quit the post amid allegations of inspiring violence that caused the cancellation of a key Haryana byelection. His political rehabilitation seriously damaged the government's credibility and led to the shock resignation of Mr. V.P. Singh, who eventually was persuaded to stay on in office by his allies. The crisis ended with Mr. Chauthala's second departure, resulting in an uneasy factional truce.

Minister Warns Kuwait on Kashmir Issue

BK2607163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] India has told Kuwait that any attempt by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue at the coming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries would vitiate the atmosphere at the next round of Indo-Pak talks next month. Kuwait has been requested to counsel Islamabad not to go outside the purview of the Simla Accord to find solutions to any bilateral problems. India's views were conveyed by the civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, at his recent meeting with the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir [Al Sabah], during his visit there. Mr. Khan has since returned to New Delhi.

Commentary Views Recent India-Pakistan Dialogue

BK2107121990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Commentary by Samuel Ved, chief of Pakistan Desk of UNITED NEWS OF INDIA: "India-Pakistan Foreign Secretaries Talks"]

[Text] The two-day India-Pakistan foreign secretaries talks which ended in Islamabad on Thursday [19 July] produced results which were more or less expected by both countries. As the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, told newsmen in Islamabad after the talks, these talks were fruitful and purposive. They provided an opportunity to India to once again emphasize to Pakistan across the table that India was very keen on normalizing relations with that country. But then, this keenness cannot be one-sided. Pakistan must respond by stopping interference in Punjab and Kashmir. India took the opportunity to make it clear to the Pakistani leadership that the present rot in bilateral relations was caused by their interference in Kashmir in violation of the Simla Agreement and the principle of peaceful coexistence.

In other words, Kashmir, an integral part of India, was not the cause of the present tension. It was the Pakistani interference in the state which has caused this tension. In May, India had proposed several confidence-building measures which in their implication reminded the two countries of their commitment to the Simla Agreement. This agreement, which remains the framework of India-Pakistan relations, binds the two countries to resolving their differences peacefully through bilateral negotiations, to respecting the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and to refraining from the use or threat of use of force. It was also suggested that as provided by the Simla Agreement, the two countries refrain from propagandizing against each other.

The most important part of the confidence-building proposal was India's request that Pakistan must stop providing training and assistance to terrorist and separatist forces in Punjab and Kashmir. This has been the root cause of the present crisis in the India-Pakistan relation.

At the foreign secretaries' talks, the Indian side once again confronted the host country with evidence of the Pakistani encouragement to antistate elements in Kashmir through training, finances and propaganda. India rejects the Pakistani claim that it was providing only moral support to such elements. The Pakistani official media expressed disappointment with the outcome of the talks mainly on two counts. Number one, that India has not accepted Kashmir as the main cause of the present tension, and unless this cause is removed there cannot be a permanent peace in the region. And number two, that India rejected a Pakistani proposal for the redeployment of troops. The Pakistani media has also regretted that Islamabad's modification of the joint [border] patrol proposal was unacceptable to India.

Ms. Bhutto has been carrying on a campaign to create anti-India frenzy within Pakistan. In May and July, she visited 30 Muslim countries to project India as a threat to Pakistan. The government has sent hundreds of delegations abroad, spending a lot of money to carry on this mission in other countries. Within Pakistan, the officially-briefed media has been writing on war prospects with India. Pakistan knows very well that the question of redeployment can only follow if the confidence-building measures are implemented. In this case, there cannot be any delinking of military and nonmilitary subjects. Pakistan's claim that Kashmir is central to any peace efforts is in fact an attempt to sabotage the Indian effort at normalizing relations.

Since the signing of the Simla Agreement in 1972, the two countries have signed a number of other agreements, including the one on a joint commission without Pakistan talking of the Kashmir preconditions. These conditions were also not attached to the Pakistani proposal for a no-war pact of 1981. In the subsequent talks (?and in her) proposal and India's proposal for a friendship [treaty], Pakistan did not say that without Kashmir there could not be any peace. It was only in the past about five months that Pakistan has decided to use the name of Kashmir for evading normalization with India. There is no doubt that this is a fallout of political rivalry between Ms. Bhutto's government and the opposition. But she must not let it endanger peace in the region. In the next round of talks scheduled tentatively from the August 9th to the 12th in New Delhi, one hopes that Pakistan will then show more mature responsibility to peace in the region.

40,000 Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu 26 Jul

BK2707103190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government needs at least 10 crore rupees for the six-month period—from June to November—for the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the various parts of the state. The state chief secretary told newsmen in Madras that the center has so far released 1 crore and the state 2 crore rupees for the purpose.

On an average, 2,500 refugees have been arriving everyday for the last four days. There were 40,000 refugees in the state till yesterday.

President Outlines Steps To Solve National Problems

BK2707103990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has called upon the governors to play a creative role in tackling serious problems facing the country, such as the situation in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and the northeast. Opening a two-day conference of governors in New Delhi today, he expressed confidence that with the cooperation of the people, the situation can be retrieved and peace restored in the states. The president also outlined various measures being taken by the center in meeting these challenges. The conference was also attended by the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh; the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; and several union ministers.

Referring to Kashmir, the president said a series of measures has been taken to reinvigorate the state machinery and to reestablish the authority of the government. Mr. Venkataraman said the introduction of president's rule and the promulgation of the ordinance giving special powers to the Armed Forces are expected to curb the violent activities of the subversives in the state. On Punjab, he said along with measures to control terrorist violence, emphasis has been given to developmental administration and to the redressal of the people's grievances. The president also expressed concern over the activities of the United Liberation Front of Assam, the Bodo militants, and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. Referring to the communal situation, the president regretted that there has been a hardening of attitudes on the Babri Masjid-Rama Janmabhoomi [disputed territory claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue leading to tension. He however expressed happiness that people have not fallen prey to religious fanaticism, bitterness, or hatred.

Turning to economy, Mr. Venkataraman said though the performance in the last two years has been impressive, the twin problems of budget and trade deficits threaten to cause a serious imbalance. Calling for all-round austerity and drastic economy in the government expenditure, he said the governors should set an example by pruning the expenditure on Raj Bhavan [Governor House] establishments. He pointed out that he had himself instructed his secretary to effect at least a 10-percent cut in the expenditure in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] establishment. He also appealed to all the state governments to take steps to cut down government expenditure by 10 percent as is being done by the center. The president said another problem causing worry is the price increase which particularly hurts the poor. He said the government has stepped up supplies of essential commodities through the public distribution

system and resorted to imports wherever necessary to contain the situation. He called for special attention to uplift of scheduled castes and tribes.

Mr. Venkataraman also apprised the governors' conference of various successful initiatives taken by the government on the international scene and to improve relations with neighboring countries. He expressed the hope that Pakistan will stop its support and assistance to subversion and terrorism in India in the larger interests of peace and stability in the region. Referring to Indo-Sri Lankan relations, the president said the government is in active consultation with the Sri Lankan authorities to see that hostilities end soon.

Rockets Strike Kashmir Radio Station

BK2607152790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] In Kashmir, the Narbal transmitting station of Radio Kashmir was attacked with rockets by unknown persons early this morning. According to police reports, the rockets were fired from paddy fields outside. Rocket fire was followed by gunfire. Security personnel posted at the transmitting station returned the fire. The area has been cordoned off. A vigorous manhunt is on.

Meanwhile, terrorists shot dead one person in Sumbal today while a body was recovered from Dal Lake near Nishat yesterday. In another encounter, one subversive was arrested and some arms and ammunition recovered from his possession. In this encounter, one civilian was killed and two security personnel sustained injuries. Reports of bomb blasts and arson have also come from some parts of the valley.

Iran

Velayati Not To Attend Islamic Meeting in Cairo

NC2607154290 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 26 (AFP)—Iran on Thursday reaffirmed that its foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, will not attend an Islamic ministerial meeting in Cairo next week and that the government will be represented by foreign policy experts. Mr. Velayati on July 11 denied Kuwaiti reports that he would travel to Cairo for a meeting of foreign ministers from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), set to begin July 31. Iran and Egypt have had no diplomatic relations since early 1979.

Officials at the foreign ministry here said a delegation of experts had left Tehran for Cairo on Wednesday "and will represent Iran at the OIC meeting."

Commentary on Aspects of Iraq-Kuwait Dispute

LD2607143190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1158 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Good day, dear listeners. Husni Mubarak has said that early next week—Saturday or Sunday [28 or 29 July]—a meeting will take place between Iraq and Kuwait in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to examine ways of ending the present dispute between the two countries. [passage omitted]

According to political circles in the region, Iraq, which is in need of more foreign exchange income in the reconstruction period following damage inflicted by the war, is angered by the fact that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have saturated the oil market by increasing production and thus causing a fall in the price of oil. These sources add that another objective of Iraq is to bring pressure on oil-rich governments of the Gulf such as Kuwait, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, so they may overlook the sum of over $30 billion in loans given by them to Iraq and even renew their assistance to Baghdad for purposes of reconstruction. Tariq 'Aziz, in his letter to the Arab community, called for the implementation of a new Marshall plan undertaken by Arab governments for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Informed sources in the Middle East say that, apart from benefiting Baghdad with regard to economic issues and increase in oil income, this propaganda war between Iraq and Kuwait would lead to more interference by foreign forces, notably by the United States, in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Even though the Americans have unofficially denied their forces were on alert, those statesmen officially in charge in Washington have consistently emphasized that the United States will not refrain from taking any action in order to support its allies in the Persian Gulf and guarantee freedom of navigation there. In addition, the intensification of differences between Iraq and Kuwait has given Husni Mubarak the opportunity to strengthen his position as a mediator, and the Egyptian head will benefit from this opportunity to recapture the previous power which Egypt enjoyed in the Arab world, especially when the session of the Arab heads of state in Cairo is only a few months away.

In any case, it is not clear at the moment whether Husni Mubarak's efforts to stage meetings between representatives of Kuwait and Iraq next week will succeed or not. However, if the current OPEC meeting produces a positive outcome, this dispute may subside. But it is clear, even now, that the differences will not be fundamentally solved, and the Iraqi government will try, at later opportunities, to benefit from aggravating these differences.

Commentary on Foreign Powers in Gulf Crisis

NC2607221590 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Station political commentary]

[Text] The Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis entered a new stage on Tuesday [24 July], when reports indicated that Iraq had amassed 30,000 of its special troops along its borders with Kuwait. This escalation coincided with reports that the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf is intensifying its presence in the northern areas of the Gulf and has been placed on full alert. The U.S. Defense Department has declined to comment on these movements by the U.S. fleet, knowing that some U.S. naval units are currently holding joint naval exercises with the naval forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The exercises have been in progress since Tuesday.

By looking into the newly emerging situation in the region, we notice that the United States is trying to take advantage of the deteriorating situation and turn it to its favor in order to directly intervene in the affairs of the region's countries, this being extremely important to the United States. This is true because the United States is playing this suspicious role in the region at a time when the other Arab countries are exerting efforts to end the differences among Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE.

As part of Egypt's endeavors in this regard, the Egyptian president met with the Jordanian king and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Cairo. This was followed by Husni Mubarak's visits to Baghdad, Kuwait, and Riyadh, where he met with officials in these capitals to discuss the latest developments in the current crisis in the region. Before leaving for Baghdad, Mubarak told reporters that he wanted to mend the rift in the Arab world and eagerly sought to unify the Arab ranks. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's political adviser who was accompanying Husni Mubarak on this visit, affirmed in Kuwait that there are no noticeably radical disagreements between Iraq and Kuwait. It should be recalled that during their meeting in Cairo, the Egyptian foreign minister had earlier proposed to the Iraqi foreign minister a four-point plan to ease the crisis in relations between Iraq and both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. In Kuwait, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, announced that his country was still determined to resolve its disagreements with Iraq through Arab mediation. Iraq, however, issued a statement on Tuesday night rejecting these Kuwaiti proposals and asserting that the unresolved border issue must be settled between the two countries without recourse to mediators. In this statement, the Iraqi foreign minister demanded the Kuwaiti officials compensate Iraq for its losses and make suitable preparations for negotiations between the two sides.

At any rate, as we pointed out at the beginning of this commentary, the current crisis between Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE is actually a crisis that must be resolved by the three concerned countries themselves without involving the major powers in the crisis. Those powers are only interested in escalating the current crisis to serve their own interests and to achieve their objectives because the crisis will not merely affect the three concerned countries but will spread to the entire region and seriously threaten peace and the vital interests of the peoples and governments.

Commentary on Aspects of Mina Tunnel Incident

Paper on ICO Responsibility

NC2407152190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Mecca Tragedy and Responsibility of OIC"]

[Text] Before the start of the Hajj season, at the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid al-Jabid, took the opportunity of dispatching a message to the OIC member states and King Fahd in particular. [sentence as published]

He lauded in his message the self-appointed "custodian of the two holy shrines", King Fahd, for his "commitment and great efforts to ensure the necessary comfort and security for the guests of Allah".

Besides that, the secretary general has requested all the members of OIC states, Islamic communities all-over the world as well as every Muslim to "abstain from any dispute or demonstration incompatible with the known rites of Hajj."

As regards al-Jabid's message, the following points are worth mentioning:

The first and foremost point to be made in this regard is that his message is a clear proof of Saudi influence on OIC officials and its secretary general in particular.

The Saudi Court has always tried to create puppet regimes for itself by influencing small and poor countries.

His message is a clear indication of his ignorance of the principles and regulations dictated by Islam and also is a proof of his ignorance about the spirit of the Hajj rituals, as he has considered "the deliverance of pagans demonstration" as something incompatible with the Hajj rituals.

Now, we would like to ask Mr. al-Jabid his opinion about the recent tunnel disaster in Mina in which was recorded a death toll of over 1,400 pilgrims.

Did the tunnel disaster occur as a result of pilgrims violating the peace and security of Saudi Arabia? Or was it indicative of the incompetence and inefficiency of the Saudi Court "and their failure to ensure the necessary comfort for the guests of Allah"?

We are indeed sorry to say that such irrational positions can never serve the interests of Muslims.

As this great calamity has happened is it not time the OIC head and the leaders of the Islamic countries take notice of the incompetence of the House of Sa'ud for managing the Haramayn [holy shrines]?

In fact the vast majority of Muslim scholars and thinkers have repeatedly called for placing the Haramayn under the jurisdiction of a governing body made of a group of believing and efficient Muslims. This group's members, they suggest, should be elected by the world's Muslims. Such appeals have been made in numerous Hajj conferences convened in different countries in recent years.

The very untoward incidents of the past and this recent disaster in Mecca all testify to the disqualification of Saudis to act as the Haramayn's custodian. The Organization of Islamic Conference and the world's Muslim leaders should join (?hands) with Muslim nations and take serious steps in this connection.

Incident Called Saudi 'Pogrom'

NC2407150190 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Mecca Pogroms—Time to Play It Cool"]

[Text] It has now been almost determined that Monday's (July 2) tunnel disaster near Mecca in which more than 1,400 hajis [pilgrims] were killed was not an accident but a pogrom. Eye-witness accounts related by the survivors are quite different than what was announced by the Saudi government. Initially it was said that the mishap occurred because of a power failure. Then King Fahd insistingly claimed that it was an accident. He further clarified the situation by saying that "it was not intentional". Accidents normally being not intentional, he probably wanted to say that it was not a plot—nothing fishy. Finally the Saudi king impudently shifted the blame to God Almighty.

"It was God's will, which is above everything," Fahd said late Tuesday. "It was fate. Had they not died there, they would have died elsewhere and at the same predestined moment". Elaborating on the subject of accidents the Saudi monarch talked about plane crashes and train collisions. He specifically referred to the recent earthquake in Iran and asked: "Could anyone stop that" Can anyone stop death? It's God's will above all".

Of course, earthquake are natural phenomena and universally acknowledged as an act of God. But what happened in Mecca, by no stretch of the imagination, can be accepted as an inherent danger the pilgrims to the holiest Muslim sanctuary have to face and suffer contentedly. And Fahd's logic that those who died in Mecca would have after all died elsewhere is as absurd as his assertion that it was God's will that more than 1,400 of "His guests", the hajis, should be trampled to death in the most secure place on earth for all His creatures.

Some Lebanese survivors of the current Mecca pogrom state that the stampede resulted because of the attack of Saudi security forces on a group of hajis who started shouting Allah-o-Akbar [God is great] when they entered the tunnel. A radio in Beirut, Seda-ye Nur [Sawt al-Nur], in its morning broadcast Saturday [7 July] quoted Lebanese hajis as saying that the turmoil started when Saudi forces shot at those shouting Allah-o-Akbar. Immediately the power was cut off and the tunnel exit was closed. Teargas was also used, said the radio. The bodies of those who died because of bullet wounds were immediately removed and buried secretly, the radio claimed. Similar statements were made by some Turkish and Malaysian pilgrims.

Nevertheless, the truth is that 1,426 hajis lost their lives this year in Mecca. More than 400 suffered a similar fate three years ago and 16 Kuwaiti hajis were beheaded last year. It is equally true that pilgrimage to Mecca has become an unsafe act. What has to be done? Unfortunately, this time also there are going to be great heaps of rhetoric on the much talked about subject of the incompetency of the Al Saud clan to administer hajj affairs.

We believe that the pogroms in Mecca cannot be stopped by making big statements, issuing communiques, holding seminars and writing lengthy features on the issue. It is high time to play it cool. Muslim countries, at least those directly involved, should immediately get-together, collect evidence, classify it and submit it to Muslim 'ulema and call on them to take necessary steps. If the 'ulema are satisfied that the Saudis are not fulfilling their responsibilities towards the hajis and believe that they are acting in an un-Islamic way in respect tothe religious obligation of hajj, then the esteemed 'ulema will issue an edict they deem fit for putting an end to this intolerable situation.

Paper Sees 'Washington-Riyadh Joint Plot'

NC2407145590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Joint Washington-Riyadh Conspiracy"]

[Text] While the slaughter of a large group of Hajj pilgrims in Mina Tunnel in Mecca still remains in a mist of ambiguity, pilgrims from various countries, panicked by the incident, have rushed on the Jeddah airport eagerly waiting to return home. On the other hand, the Islamic world is bearing witness to the condemnation of the Saudi regime for its incompetency in administering the two holy shrines in Mecca and al-Madinah.

Many political-religious personalities and the mass media in various Islamic states have stressed the need for the formation of a committee to conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation into the Mina Tunnel disaster. They have also underlined that the Riyadh government cannot be trusted as regards the announcement of the cause of the incident and that the House of Sa'ud should eventually delegate the administration of the holy shrines to a council composed of representatives of Muslims from throughout the world.

There is, however, another issue of greater significance which has worried the public opinion in the Islamic world and that is the likelihood of a conspiracy behind the incident. There is a strong probability that the U.S. wants to render the safe House of God insecure and ultimately make it a desolate place.

There is no doubt that the politico-religious Hajj rituals are in the long run a serious threat against the interests of the United States. Washington sensed the danger wholeheartedly after the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni declared that Hajj without expression of antipathy towards pagans was meaningless. Ever since, the great satan launched efforts to make the House of God insecure and do away with the Hajj ceremonies.

The massacre of over 400 pilgrims in 1987 on charges of declaring renunciation of polytheists and the hanging of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims last year are signs of this very U.S. conspiracy. The criminal hands of the U.S. should again be sought behind the appalling massacre of the pilgrims in Mecca this year.

The quota system for pilgrims was also an American scheme designed in Amman,the Jordanian capital in the presence of Washington's political representatives. One of the objectives of this plot was to render the Hajj desolate.

The barring of Muslim youths from the Islamic states by the Saudi regime from entering Hejaz to attend the Hajj ceremonies is among other measures taken place in compliance with this plot and on the direct orders of the U.S., The joint conspiracies of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia would certainly be carried out easier in the absence of zealous and revolutionary Muslim youths.

A summing-up of these points will clearly prove that Washington is orchestrating a dangerous plot against the politico-religious Hajj ceremony. Therefore, Muslims should be more vigilant and take the issue very seriously.

The information to be disclosed by the Hajj pilgrims coming from Hejaz will further unveil this heinous crime in the coming days which will be days of unmasking of the true face of the Saudi regime and of the exposing of the Washington-Riyadh joint plot.

Agreement on Transport Signed With Italy

LD2607175890 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Rome, July 26, IRNA—Iran and Italy today signed here a letter of understanding according to which Alitalia (Italian airlines) will increase its flights to Tehran and more Iranian trucks will be permitted to travel to Italy. As stipulated in the letter, Alitalia would open its second flight to Tehran in a near future. The agreement also permits one thousand Iranian trucks to cross the Italian borders till the end of 1990. So far only 500 were permitted. After 1991, the permits would be doubled, it was agreed. Issuance of further permits would be studied and decided upon in the annual joint commissions on transportation held frequently in Rome and Tehran.

The agreement will be implemented after its approval by the Italian and Iranian parliaments.

Iran and Italy sat at the negotiating table for two days to reach an agreement on the articles of the recent letter of understanding.

Commentary on Ozal Visit to Southeastern Turkey

NC2707073090 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal of Turkey has arrived in southeastern Anatolia on a seven-day visit to the Kurdish areas in which separatist Kurds have been active. The region Ozal will visit has been the venue of violent clashes between Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] members and the state security forces during the past six years. The PKK, supported by the extreme Kurdish nationalists, has created many political problems for Turkey with its guerrilla warfare. Turkey has taken many measures in an attempt to resolve the PKK problem. However, because of the size of the troubled region and the failure to remove poverty and unemployment, two factors that have caused confusion and agitation, a basic change has not occurred in the situation of the Kurdish region.

The government mobilized all of its resources in a wide-ranging plan to end the clashes in March. In a statement to the Turkish Radio and Television Network's Channel-2 program, Turgut Ozal said that the Army intended to crush the opposition forces with the help of modern military equipment. In an effort to prevent this plan from harming the political esteem of his party, that is, the Motherland Party, Ozal informed the leaders of the other political parties about the details of the plan. The political party leaders supported the plan at the time. However, fearing the loss of their supporters in the Kurdish regions, they began to attack the government shortly after the plan was put into effect.

This state of affairs in Turkey is a basic threat to the ruling Motherland Party, which emerged from the local elections in 1989 as the third party after the Social Democratic Populist Party [SDPP] headed by Erdal Inonu and the True Path Party headed by Suleyman Demirel. The SDPP is now trying to increase its votes in the Kurdish regions for the elections expected to be held in 1992.

Taking into consideration the 8-million-strong Kurdish population, which can play a decisive role during the forthcoming elections, Mr. Ozal will have to try hard during his visit to the region to convince the Kurds to support the Motherland Party. Reports say that Ozal has promised that restictions on the use of the Kurdish language will be lifted and investments in the region will

be increased. What should be asked at this point is how the government will fulfill its promises when Turkey's inflation and budget deficit are gradually increasing and no move is being made to cut military spendings.

Nevertheless, the existence of rival parties such as the SDPP, which intends to use the existing situation in its favor, and the attention the EEC focuses on the developments in Turkey's Kurdish region are sources of pressure which will force the government to reconsider its present policies.

President Urges Support for Islamic Ideals

LD2607174690 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today stated that the most crucial issue for the country was to save the spirit and the ideals of the Islamic revolution along with its construction. Referring to "some discord-sowing moves and remarks," he said "we should stand against statements aimed at weakening the ideals of the revolution."

Addressing a group of governors from throughout the country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that with the implementation of the Five-Year Plan the people would enjoy better living conditions and the gap between the rich and the poor would be bridged. He said it was "a religious and legal duty" to work for the execution of the plan and urged the governors to try in this direction.

"Ours is an Islamic system and we claim to be carrying out the thought and manner of the prophet (pbuh) [peace be upon him] and therefore you should safeguard these goals and slogans of the Islamic revolution in a manner the people and officials expect [of] you," he urged the visitors.

The president also issued guidelines to the visiting governors to pay more attention to the deprived people in the country.

Official on Venue of Experts' Assembly Meeting

LD2607101390 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—An official in leader Ayatollah Khamenei's Bureau Thursday expressed surprise over press reports that the recent gathering of the Assembly of Experts had been held at the Imam Khomeyni's mosque contrary to Ayatollah Khamenei's consent.

The mass media published reports in the past few days to the effect that the meeting of the Assembly of Experts at Imam Khomeyni's mosque, next to Ayatollah Khamenei's residence, had displeased the leader.

Contacted by IRNA Thursday, the leader's bureau chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Golpayegani expressed surprise over the report and said, "Could a great assembly meet next to his (the leader's) residence without his permission?"

Police Chief Urges Public Cooperation

LD2507115590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The implementation of the draft bill to merge the security forces can establish greater order and security in society, Brigadier General Mortazavi, chief of the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said today in an interview with reporters. He called for greater collaboration of the people with the police to establish order and to ensure the rule of law in the society.

He said: In order to ensure the rule of law, the police force, making use of faithful forces and expert and alert personnel, has taken the necessary measures for preventing crimes, and pursuing, identifying, and arresting offenders so that the guilty may be punished.

Referring to the intelligence activities of the police in order to fight against economic terrorists and joint investment companies [sherkat-ha-ye mozarebe'i], he said: The moveable and immoveable assets of a number of joint investment companies inside the country have been identified.

Regarding the issue of passports, the chief of the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: At the moment there are 38 units empowered to issue passports in the country, and each day they issue about 2,000 passports.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Gendarmerie Personnel

LD2407183590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion of Gendarmerie Day, which coincides with the month of Muharram [first month of the Arabic lunar calendar], the Gendarmerie forces stationed in the center [Tehran] this afternoon covered with flowers the immaculate shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. They then renewed their allegiance to the exalted leader in their wish to realize the aspirations of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

At the said ceremonies Hojjat-ol Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the self-sacrificing record of Gendarmerie personnel, who have always been the guardians of the Islamic Republic and security of the people all over the country and especially in the frontier regions, and offered his thanks to them. Continuing his remarks, he referred to the Islamic belief of our country's people, and said: Though we come to offer the highest number of martyrs for the territory of Islamic Iran, our struggles are based on beliefs [ete'qadi]. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Heads Drug Enforcement Meeting

NC2707083090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired the meeting last night with the headquarters for the fight against narcotics. The president stated during this meeting that as per the cabinet's approval, the vice president for executive affairs has been assigned the task of preparing a special island for the rehabilitation of addicts. The credits for the preparation of this island will be undertaken by the Kish Development Organization, and the Prisons Organization will keep addicted prisoners on this special island from now on.

During this meeting, the latest reports concerning the fight against drugs, figures on drugs that have been discovered and confiscated, and reports on the disbanding of various drug bands were presented by the general commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee. On the basis of his report during the past two months about seven tonnes of various drugs have been found and about 14,000 drug traffickers and addicts have been arrested. Also, 41 types of arms have been confiscated.

In continuation, the minister of information discussed the positive results that the identification of the major and international elements involved in the production and distribution of drugs inside the country and abroad, especially in various parts of the eastern border in Kerman Province have yielded. He also discussed the programs that are to be implemented during 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

PTT Minister Opens Lamer Telephone Exchange

NC2107064290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Lamer automatic telephone exchange which provides 1000 numbers to Lamer district was opened by the Post, Telegraph and Telephones [PTT] Minister Mr. Gharazi yesterday and thus joined the country's telephone network. With the opening of this center, which has 12 incoming and 12 outgoing channels and was completed at the cost of one billion rials, Lamer can be contacted by dialing the code 7363.

In addition, work has begun on the construction of another telephone exchange building with an area of 5,000 square meters. It will handle 5,000 numbers in Lamer district, will have an average cost of 300 million rials, and will be operational within the next two years.

IRGC Marks Electronic Warfare Graduation

LD2307142890 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—A ceremony marking the conclusion of the fifth session of the command college and of the first graduate course of electronic warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC] was held at the presence of First Vice President Dr. Hassan Habibi here today.

Addressing graduates at the ceremony Dr. Habibi said that today a military defence without reliance on the latest status of the art in military training would be impossible. He said military training should be also accompanied by adequate research in the field.

In a speech to visiting officials and graduates chancellor of [the] Military Command Academy of [the] IRGC Hasan Dana'i said that since 1985 five one-year graduate courses had been offered at the Academy and the 510 IRGC members had taken and completed the course. He added graduates of the college are engaged in commanding brigades, divisions and armies, and that the total courses that they cover at the academy occupies about 1,800 class hours.

A group of 33 are graduates of the first session of the electronic warfare at the IRGC Academy.

New Program Research Center Inaugurated

LD2407133890 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The Center for Program Research, Studies, and Evaluation, was inaugurated this morning by Mr. Mohammad-Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, and began its work officially.

This center has been created from the merger of two units: The Center for Social Research and [the center for] for Program Evaluation, and 108 researchers and scholars are working there, conducting research into different economic, social, and cultural fields.

Also the section in charge of the translation of scientific material will be active in this centre so as to familiarize [Voice and Vision] with the latest research methods. [passage omitted]

Official Reports Repair Operations on 707 Aircraft

LD2507103690 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—A senior official Wednesday disclosed that with repair operation of the first 707 passenger plane in Iran in early 1991 millions of dollars will be saved. Head of the Aviation Industries Asghar Turkan said that the repair line of the industries will become operational late this Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 1990). He noted that repair of each 707 passenger plane abroad costs Iran some $5 million, 70 percent of which is paid in wages to foreign experts.

Turkan noted that experts of Iran's aviation industries had repaired four 707 air force planes during the past five years compatible with international standards. Since 707 planes are outmoded and their repair line is being

closed down abroad, Iranian experts are ready to perform the general repair works on similar planes of the friendly regional states, Turkan added.

Noting that all military aircraft are repaired inside the country, Turkan said that negotiations were underway with one of the regional countries for repair of a number of C-130 planes in Iran.

The aviation industries, founded 20 years ago, has so far performed general repair works on some 700 aircraft none of which has faced any technical failure during their flights, the official said.

Turkan expressed the hope that construction of the largest 707 hangar in the Middle East region, with a capacity of four planes, will be completed by the end of the current Iranian year.

He added that 60 percent of the 4,500 personnel of the industries have the necessary expertise to enable the industries to become self-sufficient.

Manufacture of a light transportation plane in the country is under study and negotiations are underway with foreign companies, Turkan said hoping that a positive result will be reached soon.

Maldives

President Pardons Former President Nasir

BK2607113490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (AFP)—Former Maldivian President Ibrahim Nasir, who was accused of fleeing the country in 1978, was pardoned Thursday by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Mr. Gayoom announced the lifting of a 25-year term of banishment on Mr. Nasir during a speech to mark the Moslem archipelago's 25th anniversary of independence Thursday, residents in the capital Male said.

Pakistan

Soviet Muslim Delegation Meets Ishaq Khan

BK2607121790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed satisfaction over liberalization in the Soviet policy toward its Muslim population. Talking to a delegation of the USSR Muslim Religious Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan in Islamabad today, he said it was the result of a positive change in the Soviet thinking under President Gorbachev that an Islamic resurgence was under way in a country which witnessed religious repression in the past. He hoped if properly implemented, this would greatly help rehabilitate cultural importance and recreate the cultural glory of the Soviet Central Asia. The chairman of the board, Mufti Muhammad Sadyk, who led the delegation, apprised the president of various aspects of the new freedom given to the Muslims in the Soviet Union. He also spoke about the efforts being made by the Muslims to revive their religious institutions and rediscover their cultural identity.

Meets With Afghan Mujahidin

BK2707015190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1952 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 26 (AFP) - Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Thursday urged his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev to encourage the spiritual and cultural revival of Soviet Moslems. Officials cited the president as telling a delegation of Soviet Moslems that as a result of changed thinking under Mr. Gorbachev, an Islamic resurgence was underway in the Soviet Union, which had known religious repression in the past.

Recalling that Central Asia was once the centre of Islamic learning, Mr. Khan hailed the "new liberalization" in the Soviet Union's policy towards its Moslem population. He said the Islamic states should collectively help Soviet Moslems in recreating the cultural glory of Central Asia, without interfering in the country internal affairs and with the full approval of Soviet authorities.

The delegation leader, Mufti Muhammad Sadyk Mamayusupov, chairman of the Moslem religious board for Central Asia and Kazakhstan, told Mr. Khan of various aspects of the "new freedom" given to Moslems in the Soviet Union.

The five-member delegation also met leaders of the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government (AIG) in Peshawar Wednesday to discuss the release of Soviet soldiers captured by the Mujahedeen during the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The AIG refused to free the Soviet POWS, the influential Peshawar English-language daily THE FRONTIER POST reported Thursday, adding that Mufti Mamayusupov had said talks with the mujahedeen would continue. About 300 Soviet soldiers were reported missing after Moscow withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in February last year. The mujahedeen have never said how many Soviet prisoners they hold. The newspaper said Mr. Gorbachev was using Moslem connections in an effort to secure their release.

Pakistan-PRC Committee Agrees To Expand Trade

BK2707042890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In Beijing, at the sixth session of the Pakistan-PRC joint committee on economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation, Pakistan and the PRC have reached a consensus to increase bilateral trade and bring balance to it. Both sides identified various commodities Pakistan can export to the PRC, including petroleum products, raw wool, cotton, leather, leather products and medicines. The two sides also agreed that a

discussion should soon be held on border trade. The PRC has expressed its willingness to buy one more freighter ship from Pakistan. Both sides agreed to finalize the agreement on the Pakistan sandak project within a month. The PRC has also agreed to cooperation in the manufacture of tractor engines and forklift vehicles. In addition to this, the PRC has also agreed to the extension of Pakistan International Airline services up to Urumqi [in China's Xinjiang Province]. Pakistan has given its permission for the Bank of China to open branches in Pakistan.

Army Chief Says Sindh Terrorism 'Foreign-Inspired'

BK2707004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2024 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 26 (AFP)—Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Thursday terrorism in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province was foreign-inspired and called for action to meet the threat. A military press release cited Gen. Beg as calling, in an address to troops in Kharian in Punjab, for "timely and strong" steps to meet "threats" facing Sindh.

Government leaders have often accused India of infiltrating trained saboteurs into Sindh, scene of bloody ethnic violence and terrorist attacks in the recent past. New Delhi has rejected the charges.

More than 300 people have died in the troubled home province of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto since mid-May. Troops assisting law-enforcement agencies in the major cities of Karachi and Hyderabad have contained the violence and provincial authorities have rounded up several thousand suspects but communal bitterness between Urdu-speaking Muhajir settlers and native Sindhis continues.

The army chief was quoted as saying both political and administrative measures were needed to overcome the problem. Ms. Bhutto has refused to approve an army proposal that it be given judicial powers to set up special courts to try offenders in the province.

Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema meanwhile said in a statement Thursday that the controversy between the army and the government had been "amicably resolved."

"The army leadership fully understands the point of view of the civilian government," he said.

Ms. Bhutto has rejected the army plan on the grounds that special courts would curtail fundamental human rights by barring defendants access to a civil court.

On 'Internal,' 'External Threats'

BK2707032090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg has said Pakistan's Armed Forces are fully capable of providing security from internal and external threats. Speaking at a gathering in Khadial yesterday, he said the Pakistani Armed Forces have acquired excellent professional expertise, which can be equated to any force in the world.

Paper Urges Continued Diplomatic Efforts on Kashmir

BK1907144990 Lahore THE NATION in English 19 Jul 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Part Two of PM's Mission"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on her return from the visit of five Islamic countries appeared confident enough about their support on two key issues—threat to Pakistan's security and need for a peaceful solution of Kashmir. She said that the Indian boasts of having won over some Arab countries to its side were just propaganda. She has so far visited 14 countries in all and the general impression is that the response, by and large, has been encouraging—even in countries which had initially been misguided into believing that the uprising in Kashmir was a terrorist movement sponsored by Pakistan, it was led by a handful of fundamentalists and it was harmful to the majority of Muslims living in India. That none of these factors existed and that behind this smokescreen India had let loose the worst kind of atrocities on Kashmiris, was one of the points that the PM [prime minister] has reportedly been able to make with some success. Despite that the battle for the hearts and minds of our friends abroad is far from over. For one thing, India would continue its diplomatic pressure against the more vulnerable countries of the Arab world and for another Ms. Bhutto has visited only 14 of the forty odd Muslim countries that are ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] members. And if just a few of them choose to buy the India line and a unanimous resolution cannot be obtained in the ICO, India would have succeeded in its game.

No one will disagree with the PM that the doors of a dialogue with India should not be closed. And even though India has made it plain that it holds the central issue to be not the Kashmiris' right of self-determination but Pakistan's 'interference' in Kashmir, the efforts to disprove this theory, at least to the world at large, must continue. In other words, the thrust of Pakistan's diplomacy at this stage should be to isolate India on this issue and try to gain a moral advantage against it. This may or may not force India to address the central issue, but so long as it keeps Kashmir in the world news and brings to India the odium of continuous violation of human rights by the so-called biggest democracy of the world, its purpose would have been served.

Paper Reports on 'Teaching Research Reactor'

BK1907124590 Lahore THE NATION in English 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Karachi—A teaching research reactor has been added to the facilities of the Centre for Nuclear Studies (CNS) located at Pinstech [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear

Science and Technology] in the idyllic surroundings of Hilore, Islamabad, it is learnt.

Named Pakistan Research Reactor-2 (PARR-2).

The reactor has been constructed in collaboration with China. It is an ideal facility for teaching and training enabling students and trainees to perform several nuclear engineering experiments and to operate the reactor themselves.

Attaining criticality on November 2, 1989, is an advanced under moderated reactor of tank-in-pool type with highly enriched uranium as fuel, light water as moderator and metalic beryllium as reflector. (The fission heat produced in the core is removed through natural convection).

Following the start-up and completion of initial tests, the reactor has operated at full power and has proved a safe, compact, economical and effective tool for neutron activation analysis, radioisotope production and training. It has been performing well and is being extensively used.

PARR-2 has been designed by the Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing, while its civil structures, reactor pool, cooling and water purification system, radiation monitoring systems, and training laboratories have been designed by scientists and engineers of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) based at Pinstech.

The reactor's inherent safe design makes it specially suited for training purposes and fulfills the need for a second source of neutrons for training, research and production of radioisotopes.

PARR-1, commissioned in 1965 and currently in the process of being renovated and upgraded, has been hitherto used for this purpose and has been the hub of the research effort at Pinstech.

Over the years, PARR-1 has been extensively used for research, production of radioisotopes, and training of scientists/engineers. Its power level is now being raised from 05 MW to 10 MW. PARR-2 has been designed for 27 KW and can provide neutron flux of 10 neutron/em (?per) seconds. In case of accidental insertion of reactivity, the reactor power is automatically limited to 76 KW which is quite safe for the core, an assembly of fuel pins held between top and bottom grid plates.

It is sealed in a cylindrical vessel of 0.6m diameter and 5.7m in height, which is suspended in an underground pool of size 7mx3.5mx7m. Essential detectors and instrumentation for monitoring and control are positioned on reactor vessel.

Sri Lanka

Government Seeks Red Cross Help for Refugee Camps

BK2507132090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, areas around Jaffna Peninsula continue to be the scene of heavy fighting between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the government forces during the past few days. Massive movement of troops under Air Force cover has resulted in pitched battle causing heavy casualties on both sides besides restriction to civilian movement in the peninsula.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has requested the International Committee for the Red Cross to talk to the LTTE leadership for cooperation in setting up two refugee camps in Mannar and Vavuniya. These camps will be supervised by the UN high commissioner for refugees. Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppaswamy, reports that the latest initiative by the Sri Lankan Government is in response to a suggestion by India to help and rehabilitate thousands of helpless victims of war and prevent refugee outflow to Tamil Nadu.

Sinhalese Rebels Strike in South, Killing 15

BK2607115690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (AFP) - Sinhalese rebels have struck back after a long absence in southern Sri Lanka, killing 15 people, most of them members of a police-sponsored vigilance committee, security officials said Thursday.

An official said police found 15 bullet-riddled bodies early Thursday in the village of Siyambalangamuwa in southern Matara, once a stronghold of the rebel Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

About 50 men armed with T-56 automatic rifles seized members of a civilian vigilance committee from their homes Wednesday night, officials and residents said. Thirteen committee members were dragged from their houses and taken into the jungle where they were shot, together with two other civilians who were believed to be police informants, officials said. The village committee was formed with police help to gather information on JVP members and activities of the rebel group in the area.

Police sources said the killers were said to be members of the JVP which last year launched a violent anti-government campaign. Thousands of people died in the violence between troops, the JVP and death squads allegedly linked to the security forces. Southern areas were daily strewn with burning bodies of suspected rebels. But a major military offensive against the JVP in November led to the virtual elimination of the group's leadership including the slaying of its chairman Rohana Wijeweera.

Observers here say the resurfacing of Sinhalese rebels could only further burden the government as troops

fighting Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the Northeast may have to be deployed to crush a revival of Sinhalese extremism in the South. More than 2,100 people are reported to have died since the Tamil rebels relaunched their campaign on June 11 for a separate state in the island's Northeast.

LTTE Attacks Kill 42 Sinhalese Villagers

BK2607120990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1105 GMT 26 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Forty-two Sinhalese villagers have been killed in separate LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks in the last 24 hours.

Minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, addressing media personnel at the Cabinet briefing this morning said that after killing 20 Sinhalese people of Tamanna-Elaveka in Medawachchiya this morning the LTTE terrorists set fire to the houses of the villagers.

Mr. Wijeratne said that 12 villagers were killed at Wannala and ten others at Maduru Oya. He said the LTTE was "now on the run" and these dastardly acts were due to their desperate plight. He said the security forces had captured Paranthan, Mankulam, Kilinochchi and Elephant Pass and they were firmly entrenched. It will be only a matter of time for the forces to take Mullaittivu.

He said that after having conscripted children into their (LTTE) ranks, the LTTE began extorting money and foodstuffs. Now they are collecting 2 sovereigns per family through intimidation.

Mr. Wijeratne said that the LTTE had ordered Muslims in Jaffna to "get out" and already more than 300 Muslims have moved out of the area.

He said that there had been reports of LTTE cadres deserting the group. General Cyril Ranatunge said that a large number of deserters were those who had been enticed by the LTTE on a ruse that they would be inducted to the police force.

Mr. Wijeratne said that discussions were going on to finalise the arrangements of the refugee home on the Mannar island. This camp would be under International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] supervision.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's Cabinet briefing were minister of industries, science and technology, Ranil Wickramasinghe; minister of state for foreign affairs, John Amaratunge; minister of state for information, A.J. Ranasinghe; and Secretary of Defence, General Cyril Ranatunge.

Tamil Delegation Meets President, Urges Talks

BK2607122790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1115 GMT 26 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 July (LANKAPUVATH)—A delegation consisting of representatives of five Tamil political parties met the president, His Excellency R. Premadasa, at the Presidential Secretariat this morning. The parties were, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, Tamil United Liberation Front, Eelam People's Democratic Party and the Democratic People's Liberation Front.

A release issued by the Presidential Secretariat states, the delegation expressed its concern about the loss of civilian life and damage to property in the course of the current conflict between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. They made representations on ways and means to avoid civilian casualties as much as possible. The delegation pointed out the need to ensure that food, medical supplies and fuel are distributed from the main towns in the north and east to certain areas where there are problems of access at present.

The security authorities present at the meeting reiterated that the armed services are doing everything possible to protect innocent civilians. They also explained some of the ruses adopted by the LTTE to make the losses suffered by their own cadres as civilian casualties. One such method was to send them to combat in civilian clothes. The president assured the delegation that the Armed Forces will make every endeavour to protect the lives of civilians.

The commissioner-general of essential services, Charitha Ratwatte indicated the action being taken to transport food and other essential supplies to the north and east. It was decided that the assistance of citizens committees be obtained for the distribution of supplies from the main towns.

The delegation requested the president to initiate a political dialogue with all political parties of the Tamil speaking people so as to arrive at a negotiated political settlement of the national question.

The president explained that this had indeed been initiated through the all party conference which had before it twenty national issues, including devolution of power, for discussion and settlement. He also stated that already some of these issues, such as, liberalisation of the media, and ensuring fundamental human rights had reached the stage of being brought before parliament through legislation.

The president urged the delegation to use their good offices to broaden the dialogue to include those political parties in the opposition who are now outside the all party conference process.

The delegation indicated that they would undertake such a discussion including all shades of opinion to formulate

a common programme and would report back to the government with specific proposals.

Security Troops Continue Operations in North, East

BK2607150590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1358 GMT 26 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan security forces continued to make headway in their thrust against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists both in the north and east of Sri Lanka, resulting in a number of LTTE cadres deserting. As the LTTE were forced to retreat in all fronts, they resorted to genocide, such as when they raided unprotected Sinhala villages in the Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts, and due to false propaganda caused a number of Muslims to leave their homes and seek protection in lower (?regions) with their friends and relatives. A press release issued by the Department of Information from the Ministry of Defence states that in the 24 hours ending 12 noon today, security forces continued with flushing-out operations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

In the Northern Province in the Anuradhapura District at Tammana Elawaka in the Medawachchiya police area, LTTE cadres hacked and shot dead about 20 villagers inside their houses, which were thereafter set on fire. 3 wounded persons including a child were admitted to hospital. In view of reports of sporadic attacks on villages bordering the Northern Province, security in these areas is being strengthened through the increase of home guards and security patrols where possible. It is likely that these attacks on the Sinhala civilian populated border villages is a desperate act by the LTTE cadres who have dispersed as a result of the heavy damage that has been inflicted on their cadres by the security forces.

Security forces consolidated positions around Kilinochchi. It is reported that in Kilinochchi where the LTTE cadres had been attacked strongly by the security forces, there had been deserters from the ranks of the LTTE. In the Eastern Province in Amparai District, security forces cleared and secured the main supply route from Pulukunewa to Mahaoya. They have also cleared and secured the axis between Amparai and Sammanturai. In the Panama sector, troops engaged in clearing operations at Kurrupanodai and Kannakipuram areas, killed 1 terrorist and wounded 4 others. The following military equipment was recovered: AK-47 rifle, loaded magazines, uniforms, hand grenades and items of food.

In Sammanturai, where terrorist movements against Muslim civilians have been reported, security forces had cleared Weeramunai and Sori Kalmunai areas. In the Thirukovil sector, troops conducted operations at Kannaipuram close to Akkaraipattu and shot dead 3 LTTE members. About 20 other LTTE cadres retreated after this encounter. In the Batticaloa District, troops advancing on the Batticaloa-Urani-Eravur axis destroyed 8 terrorist bunkers along the main road. During the operation in the face of enemy fire 1 officer was killed and 12 soldiers wounded.

In the Trincomalee District, on the Kantalai-Allai road at Wanela, LTTE terrorists hacked to death 9 Sinhalese villagers who were cutting firewood in the jungle. In view of possible attack on villages, the security forces have advised the villagers in these areas to keep close to their homes.

A large scale influx of Muslim refugees into the Vavuniya District from the north has been reported by the security forces. It is said that most of these refugees are moving to join relatives in other provinces. Some of the refugees have sought refuge in camps at Medawachchiya. At Mullaitivu, the Army camp was attacked by the LTTE terrorists with RPG's, mortars and small arms. The attack was successfully repulsed. No casualties were reported.

Wijeratne Cited on LTTE Demand for Cease-Fire

BK2707081090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is reported to have demanded a cease-fire in the Jaffna Peninsula, if the government wants to get the soldiers released from the Jaffna Fort, which has been under siege for the last six week. According to the Sri Lankan minister of state for defense, Mr. Wijeratne, the feeler has been given to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is negotiating with the LTTE for cooperation for setting up of a large refugee camp in Mannar island. He has expressed the view that without the concurrence of the LTTE, the security and safety of nearly 1 lakh [100,000] Tamil refugees proposed to be accommodated in the camp cannot be ensured. Mr. Wijeratne said the LTTE has also demanded the opening of the Jaffna hospital, which has been closed since the escalation of war in the peninsula.

Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppuswamy, understands that the LTTE demand has been rejected by the Sri Lankan Government, which is poised for a final assault against the militants in the peninsula.